Tonight's Jackpot
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LOTTO 649

FIGHT GURU

GSP'S TRAINER GIVES METRO EDITOR ALL HE CAN HANDLE {page 42}

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Wednesday, April 27, 2011
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Spaceman. In training

▶ Yuval Brodsky, a 23-year-old budding astronaut from Vaughan, takes a break from his exercises at Utah's Mars Desert Research Station.

CONTRIBUTED

In red state to learn about red planet

Yuval Brodsky spent two weeks at the Mars Desert Research Station in Utah, where researchers are to understand what life on Mars will be like, if and when humans get there. Story, page 4.

Woman sues for G8 scoop

Plaintiff claims AG's withholding of report violates charter right to informed vote

A Toronto woman says auditor general Sheila Fraser's refusal to release a report on G8 spending is preventing her from making an informed choice in next week's federal election.

Backed by the global online activist group Avaaz, Kathleen Trotter has filed a lawsuit in Federal Court in an attempt to force Fraser to release her findings on the G8 legacy infrastructure fund prior to Monday's election.

She decided to take legal action after writing the auditor general to request the report's release but did not receive a reply.

Earlier this month, a leaked draft copy of Fraser's report said the government had "misinformed" Parliament to get approval for some G8 spending.

"I want to know as much as possible before I cast my vote. The government is going to be running the country and I feel that I can't cast an informed vote without this information."
KATHLEEN TROTTER

Fraser's office has previously said the report can't be released because Parliament isn't sitting and it maintained that position yesterday.
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Hey — what's that funky smell?

Bad water, cooked cabbage or well-hidden Easter eggs — from 2010.

Once it got a whiff of the strange smell spreading across the downtown core yesterday morning, the Twitterverse wasted no time devising possible explanations.

"We may want to check where the election candidates are," suggested @saranne_wrap.

While it might not have been, as Shakespeare put it, "the rankest compound of villainous smell that ever offended nostril," it did leave pedestrians holding their noses and city works officials scratching their heads.

The first official report of the odour came around 8:30 a.m., when emergency officials received a call about a "dead animal" smell coming from Front Street between York and Simcoe streets, just west of Union Station.

But at least two people tweeted that they smelled the foul odour as far west as Highway 427 and The Queensway.

"The source of the odour is unknown at this time," said Catherine Pitt, a senior communications co-ordinator with Toronto Water, which continued to sniff around for answers.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Twitter guesses

- **@stephaniesmyth:** OK, so far it's NOT the Leafs, Bankers, Ford's street food initiative, Duran Duran OR smelly people
- **@AnnaLatek:** The Stanley Cup hopes of Leafs fans?
- **@richramos78:** Last Easter's Cadbury Creme Eggs.
- **@bodsworth:** Convinced it's poop ... water main break!
- **@pcornqueen:** Hmmmmm ... Cooked Cabbage
- **@iheardtoday:** Maybe it's our polluted lake
- **@liliane77:** Definitely not the sweet smell of success
- **@halfcuppachai:** The result of the upcoming election
- **@TorontoViewer:** City Hall left its doors open
- **@_johnbutler:** It smells like asparagus pee and expired potatoes in downtown Toronto

Charge with no cause of death worries lawyer

Accused in webcam killing of student makes brief video appearance at Finch courthouse, unshaven, dressed in orange jumpsuit and gazing downward

The lawyer for a Toronto man accused in the death of a York University student says he is concerned that his client is charged with murder even though authorities haven't determined what killed Qian Liu.

Brian Dickson, 29, was charged with first-degree murder last week in the death of the 23-year-old student from China. He made a brief court appearance via video yesterday and was remanded in custody until May 24.

Liu was found dead in her apartment April 15, a few hours after her boyfriend in China watched helplessly via webcam as she tried to fend off an attacker who appeared at her door.

An autopsy has failed to reveal how Liu died and police say it may be weeks before the results of toxicology tests are known.

Dickson's lawyer Steven Krys says the fact that police have laid a murder charge without identifying the cause of Liu's death is "certainly an issue that's in the forefront."

"It's something that I look forward to examining closer," he told reporters outside court.

Krys said Dickson will plead not guilty. The lawyer and his client are still waiting to find out what evidence there is against Dickson.

"I'm looking forward to putting together a vigorous defence on his behalf."
DEFENCE LAWYER STEVEN KRYS ON HIS CLIENT, BRIAN DICKSON

The case has garnered international attention after police said an "online witness" helped them in their investigation.

Meng Xianchao, who had been video chatting with Liu when a man arrived at her door, said he felt powerless watching his girlfriend try to fight back and during the struggle.

Police haven't released any details on the relationship between Dickson and Liu, or any possible motive. But there are reports Dickson, who once attended York and served in student government, lived in the same building as Liu in northwest Toronto.

Dickson is being held at the Maplehurst correctional facility in Milton.

Liu's parents were sitting near the front of the courtroom when the man accused of murdering their daughter appeared on a screen. But they did not stop to speak to the throng of reporters who had gathered outside the courtroom.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

HENRY STANCU/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ The father and mother of slain Qian Liu leave the 1000 Finch W. courthouse yesterday following a brief video appearance of Brian Dickson.

MYSPACE.COM

▶ Brian Dickson, the man accused in the murder of York University student Qian Liu.

1 news

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Country music legend Emmylou Harris dedicates a new song to late Montreal musician Kate McGarrigle. Video at metronews.ca

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▶ Yuval Brodsky, who has a master's degree from the International Space University in France, led spacewalks through the landscape, looking for fossils, rock samples and valuable cyanobacteria at the Mars Desert Research Station in Utah's San Rafael Swell.

Vaughan's very own Martian touches down

Local resident spends two weeks at the Mars Desert Research Station in Utah simulating life on Mars

When Yuval Brodsky was seven, he and his five-year-old brother, Tal, built a spaceship out of a refrigerator box and pie tins and explored the universe with their babysitters.

This month, Brodsky, now a 23-year-old budding astronaut, finished a space simulation of a slightly larger scale: Two weeks at the Mars Desert Research Station in Utah, a place for researchers trying to understand what life on Mars will be like, if and when humans get there.

"I've always been passionate about space, for as long as I can remember," says Brodsky, who grew up in Vaughan and studied earth and environmental sciences at McMaster University.

For two weeks, the crew of six lived in the station's habitat module, a metal cylinder offering protection from sand, wind, rain and hypothetical radiation. Six tiny bedrooms offered rare moments of privacy. The crew ate freeze-dried meals, bundled up in spacesuits to venture outdoors and worked long days conducting a range of research projects.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Hunt for missing juror is on

A Superior Court judge has let 42 would-be jurors off the hook for not showing up for duty — but will No. 43 be so lucky?

That juror, a Brampton resident, has been ordered to appear in court to explain why he or she has refused to accept jury duty obligations.

The resident, identified only as Juror 652, must appear next month before Superior Court Justice Casey Hill in a Brampton courtroom.

The person was one of 43 who did not show up Jan. 19 for jury selection, causing the judge to make the unusual move of summoning them to explain their absence. The other 42 have since appeared before the judge, or it was discovered that the jurors had moved and the court was using outdated mailing lists.

Registered letters were sent ordering them to appear before Hill on Feb. 17 to explain their absence. Since then, all but one has provided valid reasons.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

15-year-old charged in mall stabbing

Peel region police have charged a suspect in the stabbing death of teen at a shopping mall parking lot in Brampton.

Klayton Wynter, 15, of Toronto, died in hospital after being stabbed Saturday at the Bramalea City Centre.

Police say another 15-year-old boy is charged with second-degree murder. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Your overnight guest may get a parking break

City panel backs 24-hour and 48-hour temporary permits If council agrees, target date is July 1

Just in time for summer houseguests, Toronto may soon offer 24-hour "overnight" and 48-hour "weekend" temporary street parking permits.

The new shorter permits, endorsed yesterday by the public works committee, are expected to be popular with visitors in parts of the city where parking is tight.

The permits still need the full council's blessing, but the target date for offering them is July 1.

The move would help overnight visitors avoid a $30 parking ticket, resident Mary Carolyn Gioia told the committee.

Over to Joe

- Yesterday, some councillors wanted to cut the rates to $6 and $10.
- In the end, the issue was referred to city manager Joe Pennachetti as part of his review of city user fees.
- Currently, the city offers a temporary, seven-day permit that can be purchased online for $18.74.

"This is kind of a no-brainer," Gioia said.

"Those of you in the room may have already experienced the absurdity of receiving a $30 ticket when you go for an evening with your friend."

When the idea was raised, it was suggested rates be $8 for overnight and $12 for 48 hours.

The temporary permits don't pose enforcement problems: Parking officers can use their hand-held devices to check whether a permit has been issued.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Rimes. No hurtin' songs here

▶ LeAnn Rimes arrives at Pearson yesterday, with a wedding ring sitting proudly on her finger.

TODD GILLIS PHOTO

Who's blue? Not LeAnn

Married just days ago, country star LeAnn Rimes, who shot to fame with her album Blue, is in town to star in a CMT Original Movies' Reel Love shoot.

Kids' pleas fail to lift street hockey ban

Hockey-loving kids failed to convince a city committee to scrap the ban on street hockey.

The public works committee agreed with staff yesterday to keep the status quo — with a rarely enforced ban to protect the city from liability.

Coun. Josh Matlow has submitted a motion for the May 17-18 council meeting that the city consider letting parents volunteer to take legal responsibility for games on their street.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

128

Some ball hockey players showed up with a 128-name petition supporting street hockey.

NDP candidate is running ... and running

Andrea Moffat is leading a double life.

She is running as the NDP candidate in Pickering-Scarborough East while managing the campaign of NDP candidate Rathika Sitsabaiesan in neighbouring Scarborough-Rouge River.

But there is no doubt where her heart lies.

"I'm full time with Rathika," says the 33-year-old diversity and marketing consultant.

Liberal incumbent Derek Lee's retirement and the NDP's recent surge in the polls has turned Scarborough-Rouge River into a wide-open contest, she says.

The NDP ran third behind the Conservatives in the riding last time.

Scarborough-Rouge River has one of the largest concentrations of Tamils in the GTA, and 29-year-old Sitsabaiesan's Tamil roots and strong youth appeal is resonating in the riding, Moffat says.

DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Rathika Sitsabaiesan is the NDP candidate in Scarborough-Rouge River.

Also running are Marlene Gallyot for the Conservatives, Rana Sarkar for the Liberals and George Singh for the Greens.

Moffat, who ran a distant third to Liberal Dan McTeague in Pickering-Scarborough East in 2008, is running there again because the party couldn't find anyone else, she says.

Moffat received 4,875 votes to McTeague's 22,874 last time.

The Conservative candidate got 14,940 votes while the Green candidate got 3,023 votes.

"I live in the riding, I have signs and a really great campaign team from last time who are doing most of the work," she says.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Imagine … Layton as PM

Imagine all the people … voting NDP.

Jack Layton is no John Lennon, but the piano-playing, left-leaning NDP leader is nonetheless urging voters to explore the boundaries of their political imaginations.

The party's latest ad, titled Imagine, urges viewers to think seriously about making a prime minister of Layton — a man whose party has never had the heft to genuinely challenge the Liberals or the Conservatives.

It's another clear sign that with opinion polls suggesting a surge in popularity in Quebec and elsewhere, the NDP is in unfamiliar territory.

No one, it seems, knows that better than Layton.

"I'm a New Democrat," Layton said yesterday in Montreal when confronted with the reality that more votes may not mean more seats.

"We're used to working very, very hard, and having people come and be interested in our ideas, but then because of our current electoral system we don't get the number of seats that are warranted by the percentage of vote that we get."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

28

A new Ekos poll released yesterday had the NDP at 28 per cent, just six points behind the Conservatives at 34 per cent. The Liberals were at 24 per cent.

Shh, Iggy has a plan

Liberal leader says hush-hush operation is bringing voters back into the 'red tent' ◐ 'The base is back'

Election 2011

A covert Liberal ground game has brought disenchanted party faithful back into the fold, Michael Ignatieff said yesterday.

The Liberal leader says he is confident those 800,000 Grits who stayed home in the 2008 election will come out to vote May 2.

"The base is back," he told reporters in Vancouver.

"And we've had a whole operation under the radar for a very long time to get that base out."

Ignatieff credits his own pounding of the pavement with winning back Liberals who couldn't bring themselves to go to the ballot box when Stéphane Dion led the party.

"I've spent a year and a half on that bus, a year and a half on Open Mike town halls," Ignatieff said.

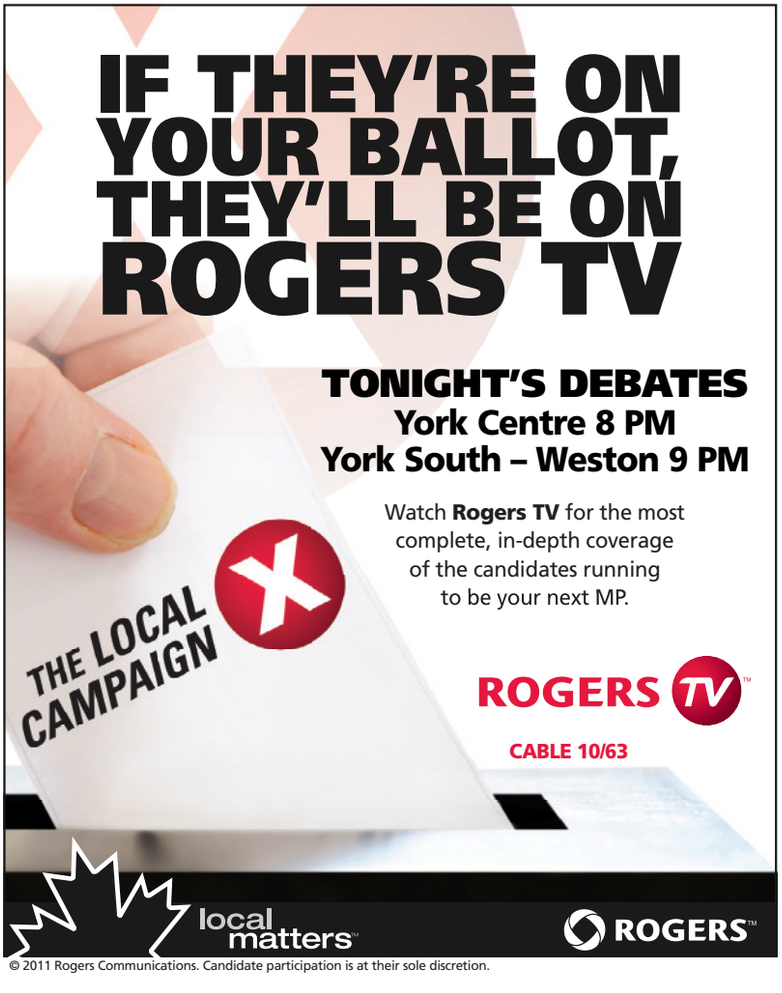
"What was that about? It's to get the base back, get those Liberals … to come on back into the red tent."

"I'm fighting to win the way Liberals have always won, by saying, 'Come on into the centre.'"

MICHAEL IGNATIEFF

But some of those voters, however, seem to be poking their heads inside the orange tent. Some election polls have the New Democrats ahead of the Liberals — particularly in Quebec.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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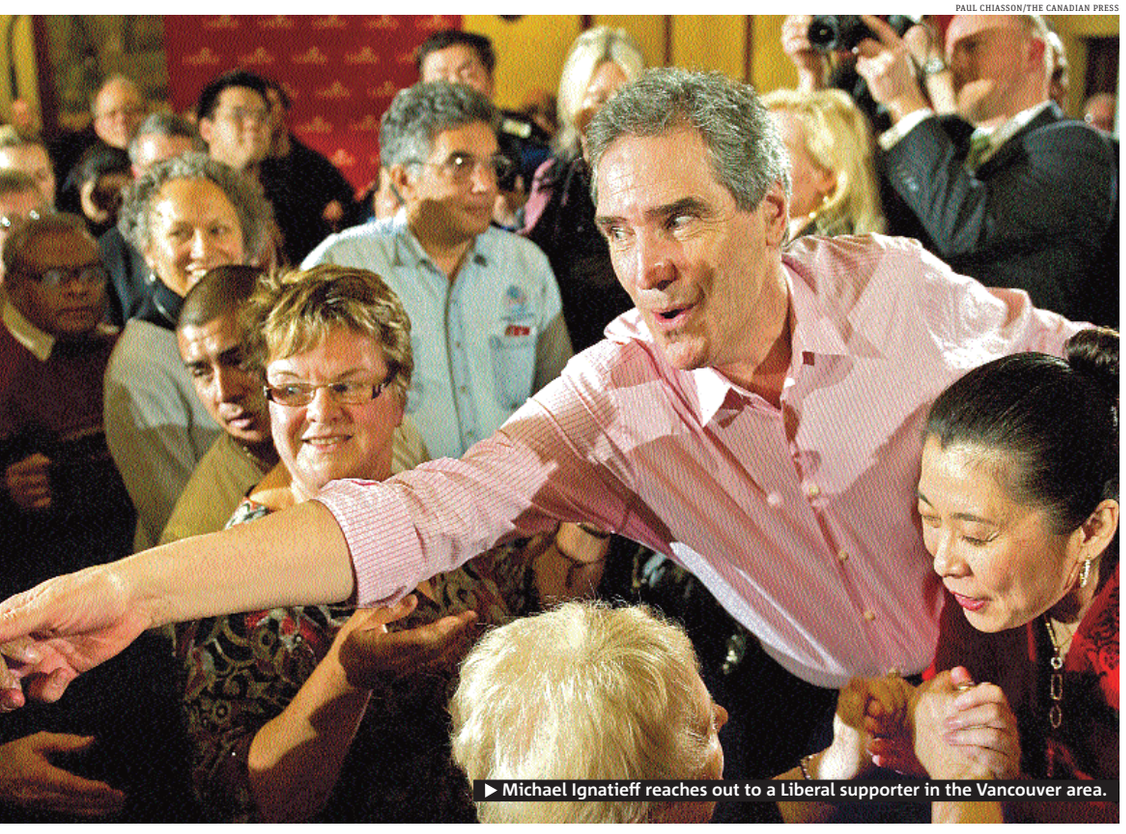

▶ Michael Ignatieff reaches out to a Liberal supporter in the Vancouver area.

Tory gun adviser shoots from the lip

A man who advised the Conservative government on firearms policies has compared the Ontario Provincial Police to a fascist paramilitary group and the Nazi SS.

Dr. Mike Ackermann, a physician in Nova Scotia, was appointed in 2006 to a firearms advisory committee, reporting to then-public safety minister Stockwell Day.

Ackermann wrote a note in a Canadian Firearms Digest mailing list this month discussing a police raid on the home of an Ontario gun owner.

He compares the police to the Black Shirts, a fascist paramilitary group in Italy under Benito Mussolini, and the infamous Nazi SS police.

"So all it takes now to have the Black Shirts bomb your house and take you down is an unsubstantiated call by a disgruntled whoever," he wrote.

"As I predicted a few years ago, the escalation of police response from a polite knock on the door and discussion to SS-type raid is the direct result of gun licensing and registration coupled with the pogrom of cultural genocide that has been going on for the last decade and more.

"Sooner or later they are gonna start shooting us first and asking questions later."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Doc's diagnosis

- Ackermann appears to be a frequent contributor to the Firearms Digest mailing list, which has archives online from 1994 to 2010.
- He often espouses the view that gun deaths could be prevented if the would-be victim were also armed.

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How will the West react?

The U.S. and British defence chiefs are dismissing the idea that because the international community responded to unrest in Libya with military force, the same should be done in Syria, where a government crackdown on protesters has reportedly killed hundreds.

After meeting with U.S. Defence Secretary Robert Gates, British Defence Minister Liam Fox said yesterday that the world's response to popular revolts across the Middle East and North Africa must be tailored to the circumstances of each case.

In a joint appearance with Fox at the Pentagon, Gates made a similar point, noting that before the military campaign in Libya was launched, there was a diplomatic process that resulted in calls for action by the Arab League, the Gulf Co-operation Council and the United Nations.

World leaders have expressed concern at the mounting bloodshed, with the United States starting to draw up sanctions against Assad, diplomats hoping to send a strong signal to Damascus from the United Nations, and the prime minister of neighbouring Turkey calling the Syrian leader to urge restraint.

Syria has banned nearly all foreign media and restricted access to trouble spots since the uprising began, making it almost impossible to verify the dramatic events shaking one of the most authoritarian, anti-Western regimes in the Arab world.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TRYING TO

'We can't bury the dead in the cemetery because it's occupied by Syrian soldiers,' says one Daraa resident

Residents of the southern Syrian city of Daraa braved sniper fire yesterday to pull the bullet-riddled bodies of the dead from the streets and hide them from security forces, a day after a brutal government crackdown on the popular revolt against President Bashar Assad, witnesses said.

As heavy gunfire reverberated through Daraa, a Syrian human rights group said authorities detained dozens of people across the country, mainly in several Damascus suburbs, including the town of Douma and in the northern coastal city of Jableh.

"A relentless crackdown since mid-March has killed more than 400 people across Syria, with 120 dead over the weekend," rights groups said.

That has only emboldened protesters who started their revolt with calls for modest reforms but are now increasingly demanding Assad's downfall.

The Syrian army, backed by tanks and snipers, killed at least 22 people in a raid launched before dawn Monday on Daraa, where the uprising began more than a month ago.

"We are being subjected to a massacre," said one Daraa resident. "We have been without electricity for three days. We have no water." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brutal crackdown

It took more than a day for residents of Daraa to start pulling many of the bodies off the streets of Daraa, with rooftop snipers and army forces firing on people who dared to leave their homes.

- Snipers also targeted water tanks on rooftops, said one resident.
- The tanks are the last source of clean water for many desperate residents of the parched region of 300,000 people.
- Palestinian refugees smuggled flour, water, bread and canned food into town.

▶ Syrian protesters chant slogans yesterday as they protest against ongoing violence in Syria in front of the Syrian Embassy in Cairo, Egypt. Gunfire reverberated in the southern Syrian city of Daraa where the dead still lay unclaimed in the streets a day after a brutal government crackdown on the popular revolt against President Bashar Assad, residents said.

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CLAIM THE DEAD

KHALIL HAMRA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

President bans mass protests, Syrians defy him

The uprising was touched off by the arrest of teenagers who scrawled anti-government graffiti on a wall, with protesters inspired by uprisings elsewhere in the Arab world.

Last week, President Bashar Assad fulfilled a key demand by abolishing the nearly 50-year-old emergency laws that had given the regime a free hand to arrest people without cause.

But he coupled the concession with a stern warning that people would no longer have an excuse to hold mass protests, and any further unrest would be considered "sabotage."

When protesters defied his order and held demonstrations Friday — the main day for rallies around the Arab world — they were met with gunfire, tear gas and stun guns.

The attack on Daraa was by far the biggest in scope and firepower. Video purportedly shot by activists showed tanks rolling through streets and grassy fields with soldiers on foot jogging behind them.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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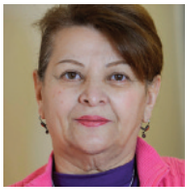

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Never again?

Twenty-five years after Chornobyl, Russia seeks world push for safety

Tough new guidelines could help prevent accidents like the massive Chornobyl meltdown, Russia's president insisted yesterday.

Dmitry Medvedev defended nuclear energy during ceremonies commemorating the 25th anniversary of the worst nuclear accident in history.

Medvedev and Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych took part in a religious service outside Chornobyl's damaged No. 4 nuclear reactor.

Medvedev said he has invited world leaders to work on rules for safer nuclear energy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The meltdown

- **Fallout:** The April 26, 1986, accident spewed radioactive dust over much of Europe and forced hundreds of thousands from their homes in Ukraine, Belarus and western Russia.
- **Mistake:** Chornobyl fostered deep mistrust because Soviet leaders waited for days to tell people about the disaster.

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metro life panel

VICTOR DRACHEV/GETTY IMAGES

▶ People in Minsk, Belarus, wear masks bearing the nuclear logo yesterday as they commemorate the Chornobyl nuclear disaster and protest against the construction of a nuclear power station.

Fallout affected birds: Study

Birds in the Chornobyl area have brains five per cent smaller than average due to the effects of radiation, says a new study.

Dr. Andrea Bonisoli Alquati at the University of South Carolina said: "It affects their song, for example. Their song repertoire is highly dependent on their brain size." Also, having a smaller brain may affect their ability to mate, Bonisoli said.

Does this mean human brains in the Chornobyl area have shrunk, too?

"Children in Ukraine and Belarus, and even Scandinavia, who were exposed to radiation from Chornobyl had smaller heads and lower grades in school."

METRO WORLD NEWS

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Cuba 89.9 ¢/min	Pakistan 5.9 ¢/min	U.K. 2.9 ¢/min
El Salvador 9.9 ¢/min	Philippines 11.9 ¢/min	Vietnam 4.9 ¢/min
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RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Thousands came out to Queen's Park April 3 for the SlutWalk.

SlutWalk goes international

▶ SlutWalk U.K. has planned a march in London June 4 ▶ More than 460 people plan to attend ▶ Event also spreading across Canadian cities

Toronto's own SlutWalk has sparked marches across the U.S. and the U.K.

The event was held downtown this month in response to a city police officer's statement that "women should avoid dressing like sluts in order not to be victimized."

More events are popping up in support as news of his comments spreads far beyond the GTA on blogs and Facebook. Many other SlutWalk groups have formed in the U.S., including in Los Angeles, Chicago, New York, Seattle and Detroit.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Woman mauled to death by 4 pit bulls

A woman from Truth or Consequences, N.M., died after being attacked by four pit bull dogs while taking a walk Easter Sunday, New Mexico authorities said.

Officer James Harrington said he found four pit bulls mauling Margaret Salcedo, 48, when he arrived in response to a 911 call. The department said his attempt to drive the animals off was unsuccessful, and he fired several shots at one of the dogs when it threatened him. That animal fled, and Harrington was able to scatter the remaining dogs.

Harrington and emergency technicians gave first aid to Salcedo, but she died later at Sierra Vista Hospital in the central New Mexico community.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iran may ban dog ownership

BEHROUZ MEHRI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

▶ A woman walks her dog in Tehran.

If you're a poodle, get out of Iran.

Lawmakers in the nation's capital have proposed a bill that would make owning a dog illegal.

What do Iranian politicians have against pet pooches?

They are un-Islamic, disease-ridden and short-legged.

The bill states dog ownership "poses a cultural problem, a blind imitation of the vulgar culture of the West." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Is 'the wedding' really worth it?

SANG TAN/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Workers move an English maple into Westminster Abbey in preparation for Friday's royal wedding. Will Brits loosen their purse strings in celebration of William and Kate's vows?

The royal nuptials could be a right royal drain on U.K. economy

SIMON ENGLISH
FOR METRO WORLD NEWS

Will the royal wedding give a boost to the British economy?

Since most British firms have nominated Friday as a national holiday, certain businesses — pubs, flag-makers, sun lotion manufacturers — look set to profit.

But that's likely to be at the expense of other firms, say analysts.

Opinion is split on whether the supposed "feel-good" factor from the holiday could be just the jolt a flagging economy requires or whether it merely represents a lost day's productivity.

Some organizations warn the wedding is the last thing Britain needs.

"April is a complete write-off," one company director moans.

High up in the sourpuss league is the CBI, a business lobby group.

It calculated that bank holidays cost the British economy $9.4 billion each time.

The TUC, the workers' union, has done research of its own, claiming it's actually a much more affordable $1.5 billion.

"What better excuse could any of us have for spending money we don't have than the royal wedding?"
ANALYST DAVID BUIK

Firmly on the side of the optimists is David Buik, the sage at brokers BGC Partners.

He reckons people will loosen their purse strings and this could have a rolling effect into the summer.

Tourism spending could be significant. Some will come in from overseas, some will be Britons spending money in London they might otherwise have spent elsewhere.

What about the costs of the wedding itself?

Experts estimate it to be a $15.7-million affair — a cost to the public purse.

Police costs are hard to estimate, but a guide might be the Pope's visit — $6.2 million.

These figures assume gangs of anti-royalists don't smash up the capital in anarchic rage.

Don't say it couldn't happen.

LEFT, RIGHT OR MIDDLE — IT'S YOUR CHOICE

JUST SAYIN ...

PAUL SULLIVAN
METRO

I am Canadian.

Thanks to a certain beer commercial, you already know what that means.

I vote with my heart since my head is only good for parking one of those hats with earflaps.

When I was very young, I voted NDP.

Then, one day I got tired of wasting my vote, so I voted for Pierre Trudeau, even though he thought the West was something you flew over on the way to visit Margaret's parents in Vancouver.

Even though he flipped off Prairie farmers and launched the National Energy Program, which is why no Liberals get elected in Alberta to this day.

I had a brief moment of remorse and voted for Joe Clark, the favourite son of High River, Alta. But as Progressive a Conservative as Joe was, he was still a long way from Ed Broadbent.

So I went back and wasted my vote for another couple of elections. Don't blame me for Brian Mulroney. I voted NDP.

"I grew up in the geographical centre of Canada, Winnipeg, and from there, you can see both sides. Winnipeg elects a lot of Liberals, who can also see both sides."

Then I surprised myself and voted for Kim Campbell, even if she was going out with a guy who was trying to sell running shoes with springs in them. Of course, she was crushed by the Little Guy/petit gars from Shawinigan, and so at the next available opportunity, I went Little Guy, even though there was really nothing little about him. Especially his ego.

By the time Jean Chrétien was ushered off the stage, I had settled into a Liberal voting pattern, which is probably where my heart belongs. I grew up in the geographical centre of Canada, Winnipeg, and from there, you can see both sides. Winnipeg elects a lot of Liberals, who can also see both sides.

Liberals are often accused of riding the fence, and that was certainly Paul Martin's problem — he spent his brief reign impaled on a picket, but I voted for him anyway.

So here we go again.

Stephen Harper? Can't sing. Never trust anyone who is a semi-tone flat but insists on singing in public anyway. Karaoke hog.

Jack Layton? Can't count. If we give him the keys to the Canadian economy, he will take it for a joyride until it runs out of gas.

Elizabeth May? Can't get elected. It's like voting Rhinoceros, just not as much fun.

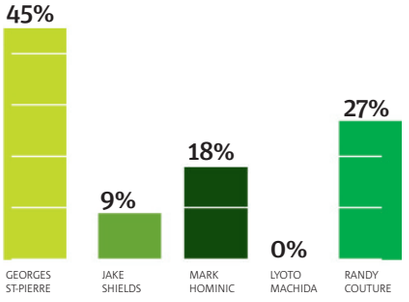
My heart says to vote for Michael Ignatieff, who is one of the most well-educated guys ever to run for prime minister, but I guess summa cum laude doesn't get you to Sussex Drive.

I am Canadian. It doesn't really matter if my choice wins. What matters is that I vote, because I can.

Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying

metro life panel **Register at metrolifepanel.ca and take the quick poll**

Who is the best looking UFC fighter on Saturday's card for UFC 129 in Toronto?



Local tweets

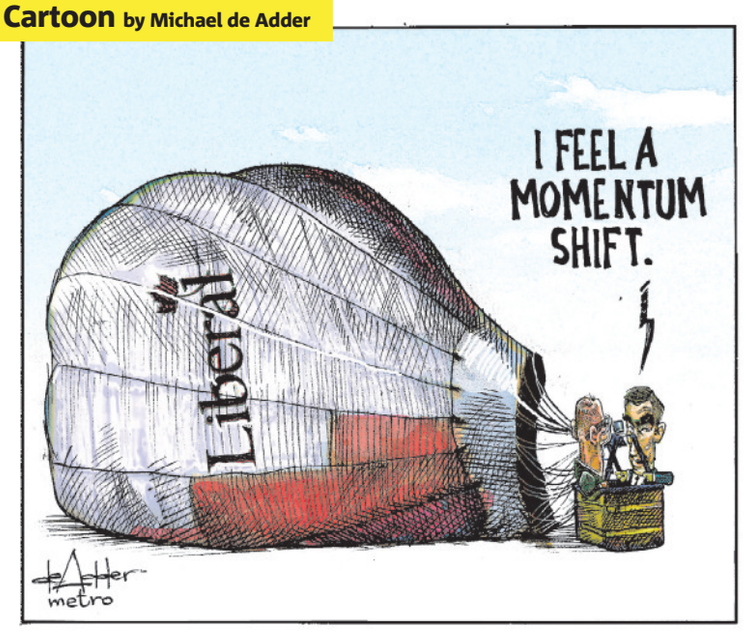
- **@1con fuzzled:** #BIXI is comin 2 T.O!! =) waitin since Ottawa 2 summers ago! u can borrow bike @ 1 dock & return @ another. summer bikin along lakeshore! =)
- **@ianmilligan1:** Getting excited about Bixi bikes in #Toronto (new bike share system). Can't believe it launches next week. Finally, good news for the city!
- **@mgrossitfp:** Question: why haven't the toronto blue jays put up a statue of joe carter yet?
- **@pete_j_evans:** New York, London, Shanghai, Paris, San Francisco or Toronto ... only places I can see myself living in, in 20 years
- **@dollyhoward:** The rain in Toronto isn't very sad today. It's a fresh rain. The patter on the window is making my heart skip a beat or two in delight.
- **@chrislotts1:** Robyn round ... I've lost count. She's back in Toronto June 3rd! Who's going? #robyn
- **@legitski:** toronto squirrels > windsor squirrels as toronto squirrels don't try to attack you every time you're close to one ...

#elxn41: Tweets

We asked: Turnout in Canadian elections can be quite low. What's a reason you wouldn't vote?

- **@jen2sen:** I am voting but really they are all the same why can't politicians work together for the greater good?
- **@megelizah:** I don't like the choices & I don't just want to pick the one I dislike the least ... So maybe I'll just spoil my ballot?
- **@timwadephul:** Ignorance. It can be really hard to find proper/unbiased information about not just party leaders, but local representatives
- **@brittanymaria:** Informed voting and political engagement is so important but I think many people feel alienated by the political parties.
- **@stevequinton:** I'm voting but if I didn't it would be because politicians are all elitist a~holes. They only care about their careers.
- **@l0r1b3nn3tt:** frustration with who to vote for. & it would be nice to vote directly for our pm instead of the way we do it in Canada.
- **@jla30:** Don't like the candidates #elxn41

Cartoon by Michael de Adder



WEIRD NEWS

Handing the keys over to a new generation

No more hieroglyphics. No more quill pen and inkwell. Now the mechanical typewriter may be on the endangered list.

The owners of the world's last remaining mechanical typewriter factory have shut the plant's doors because of declining orders, CBC News reports.

Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Co. Ltd. has shuttered its facility in Mumbai, India, where, as recently as 2009, the company was making 12,000 mechanical typewriters per year.

"We are not getting many orders now," general manager Milind Dukle told India's Business Standard newspaper. "This might be the last chance for typewriter lovers."

Mechanical typewriters are prized in India for their ease, efficiency and durability. As many as 400 million Indians lack reliable electricity, so the devices were widely used in the courts and government bureaucracy.

The first commercial mechanical typewriter was produced in the U.S. in 1867. The devices pioneered the QWERTY keyboard layout that is now ubiquitous on personal computers and smartphones. METRO

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An idiot's guide to the Royals

Who's who in the Windsor family? Here's everything you need to know

ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Her Majesty the Queen

Position: Her Royal Highness, The Queen
Who? Became Queen at 25. Head of State for the U.K. and 15 other Commonwealth realms including Canada, patron of more than 600 charities, advises the government.
Scandal: Consistently dignified, although her dislike for Princess Di was made public.

Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

Position: Husband to The Queen
Who? Accompanies The Queen on her duties. Patron or president of 800-plus organizations.
Scandal: Infamous for embarrassing gaffes like asking an Aboriginal person whether they still throw spears on a state visit to Australia.

Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall

Position: Second wife of Prince Charles
Who? Married Charles in 2005, and supports him in his duties.
Scandal: Unglamorous but jolly second wife of Prince Charles.

Charles, Prince of Wales

Position: The Queen's oldest son
Who? Runs umbrella group of 20 charities, patron to 400.
Scandal: Had affair with his old flame Camilla Parker-Bowles, their intimate relationship revealed in phone call transcriptions in which he said he wished he were her tampon.

Princess Anne

Position: The Queen's only daughter
Who? Low-key but prolific. President of Save the Children, and patron of more than 320 organizations and charities. Has two children, Zara Philips and Peter Philips.

Zara Philips

Prince Andrew, Duke of York

Position: The Queen's middle son
Who? A Royal Navy helicopter pilot for 22 years.
Scandal: Nicknamed Randy Andy in the '80s for a string of glamorous girlfriends. Most recently his role as trade envoy is threatened by links to billionaire Jeffery Epstein convicted of underage sex.

Sarah Ferguson

Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex

Position: The Queen's youngest son
Who? An unacademic Cambridge graduate who left Royal Marines early to work in the theatre.
Scandal: Long rumoured to be gay. In 1986 his TV company produced embarrassing TV charity game show, It's a Royal Knockout.

Sophie, Countess of Wessex

Diana, Princess of Wales

Position: Late ex-wife of Prince Charles
Who? Hugely popular and glamorous, committed to her daring charity work with AIDS-sufferers and anti-land-mine organizations. Divorced Charles in 1996, died in 1997.

Prince Harry

Position: Youngest son of Prince Charles
Who? Has trained as a tank commander, and currently training as a helicopter pilot with the army.
Scandal: General drunkenness, dressing as a Nazi at a fancy dress party.

Prince William

Position: Oldest son of Prince Charles
Who? Helicopter pilot for the RAF, has also followed in his mother's footsteps supporting homeless and AIDS charities.
Scandal: Relatively clean, although chastised for flying helicopter to friend's party.

Kate Middleton

Position: Fiancee of William
Who? Attractive royal bride-to-be. Worked for her parents' online party shop until her engagement.
Scandal: Allegedly her mother pushed her to attend St. Andrews University in order to meet her prince charming.

Princess Beatrice and Princess Eugenie

Position: Children
Who? Party-going student daughters often photographed falling out of high-society clubs.

Lady Louise and Viscount Severn

Position: Children
Who? Kept out of the media glare.

EMMA FORREST
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

2 scene

Wedding tweets

Hopefully Kate and William's marriage will mark a new generation of royal marriages. Marriages in the previous generation are too-often far from happy. Three of Queen Elizabeth's four children have divorced.

Follow Weddingbells Allison McGill as she tweets live from London before, during and after the royal nuptials on Friday at metronews.ca/royalwedding

For more Royal Wedding coverage, scan this code or visit metronews.ca/royalwedding

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Still not convinced? Their first meeting is free – before you go back a second time and start paying their fees give us a call. We'll walk you through all of your options and then you can decide what's best for you and your family.

One more thing – there are NO upfront fees to file a consumer proposal – if someone wants you to pay a fee BEFORE they file your paperwork then you aren't dealing with the right people!

PREP FOR FRIDAY WITH THESE REEL ROYAL WEDDINGS

IN FOCUS

RICHARD CROUSE
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Perhaps you've heard, there's a wedding on Friday. But no, your invitation isn't lost in the mail or caught in a spam folder, you're just not on the list.

When Prince William and Kate Middleton walk down Westminster Abbey's storied aisle (where William's uncle Prince Andrew married Sarah Ferguson in 1986) to exchange "I do's" you'll be at home in your pyjamas watching it on TV with a cup of tea in your hand and a crumpet at your side. The upside? You don't have to get them a wedding gift.

To prep for the pomp and circumstance I've selected a number of royal wedding movies to get you primed for the big day.

The name Marie Antoinette is synonymous with surplus and when little Ms. Let Them Eat Cake wed the Dauphin of France no expense was spared. Married by proxy a month before, she arrived at the site of the ceremonial wedding — at the Palace of Versailles no less — in a procession that included 48 carriages.

See a recreation of the exercise in excess in Sophia Coppola's 2006 film, Marie Antoinette. It may not get the details 100 per cent right, but if you want accuracy watch the History Channel.

Also torn from the history books is The Duchess, the story of the 17-year-old Georgiana Cavendish (Keira Knightley), great-great-great-great-grandaunt of Diana, Princess of Wales, who weds the much older Duke of Devonshire (Ralph Fiennes).

Speaking of relatives, the life, love and marriage of Queen Victoria (Prince William is her fourth great-grandson) are detailed in The Young Victoria, starring Emily Blunt.

Despite being shot by soft candlelight for a glowing historical feel, The Young Victoria isn't Masterpiece Theatre. Accents and petticoats aside, this is a modern movie, with a modern sensibility, that mixes history, politics, romance, castle etiquette and backroom dealings into one frilly, appealing package.

In the realm of the unreal are two final reel royal weddings. Before Anne Hathaway started taking her clothes off in every movie she stars in, she was the wholesome star of The Princess Diaries. In PD2: Royal Engagement, her character, Princess Mia, must get married in order to become queen.

▶ Emily Blunt and Rupert Friend star in The Young Victoria.

The most recent royal wedding to hit screens happens in Your Highness, the medieval stoner comedy starring Natalie Portman and James Franco. Prince Fabious Franco walks Belladonna (Zooey Deschanel) down the aisle but the wedding is interrupted by an evil sorcerer.

Let's hope William and Kate have better luck.

▶ Michael Douglas

Douglas furious with press over coverage of wife

Michael Douglas is proud of wife Catherine Zeta-Jones for discussing her bipolar disorder, but he wishes she didn't have to go through the public ordeal of it.

"I must say, Catherine's being quite open about it because she was outed, you know," Douglas tells Oprah Winfrey, referring to a National Enquirer story about Zeta-Jones seeking treatment for the disease.

"She went to go get some help and some other patient probably in there said, 'Hey, you won't believe who's in here now.' And, so, once that happens, I think she felt [it] best to kind of get out the story."

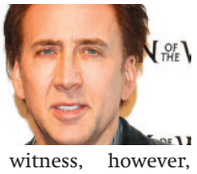
METRO

Nicholas Cage faces child abuse claims

After his wild night in New Orleans last week that led to his arrest, Nicolas Cage may also find himself investigated for child abuse, according to TMZ.

In the initial police report from Cage's arrest, his wife, Alice Kim, says that Cage "fell while holding their son" during their argument.

"The fall caused the five-year-old to suffer a minor abrasion to his left knee."



A witness, however, claims he saw, "Mr. Cage pull the male child to the ground by his hand."

The police report states that Kim would not let police interview her son after the incident. METRO

Talking points

Elton feels for royal couple

HATES THE PRESS Elton John is thrilled for Prince William and Kate Middleton as their wedding approaches, but he also knows they have a tough road ahead.

"Let's face it. We know what that kind of marriage entails. The press never leave you alone," he says during an interview with Good Morning America.

METRO

Aguilera tries to get past flub

A BAD JOKE Christina Aguilera is doing her best to get passed her infamous Super Bowl gaffe, during which she sang the wrong lyrics during the Star-Spangled Banner.

"That night I knew, I just made myself a Trivial Pursuit question," she tells Ellen DeGeneres. "In 2011, what female singer, ya know, flubbed the lyrics. It's just insane. But I have a really good laugh about it and you get over things. You get back up again and you just prove to yourself and to everyone you're that much stronger."

METRO

Celebrity tweets

"Avoid vexatious people."

@TheRealNimoy

@MissKellyO

"My hearts in my mouth right now & my hands r shaking because a pap almost drove me off the road if he hit us we would of ended up in the er"

@billmaher

"Tina Fey, 5 months pregnant at 40 not showing and no one knew - boy, when she does a Sarah Palin impression, she really commits!

@margaretcho

"There is a dog in another apartment who sounds like he's warming up for the opera me-me-me-me-me"

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Travel in brief

Some of the best pictures from the news in 2010, including award-winning images from Haiti, are going on display at the Newseum in Washington. The Pictures of the Year exhibit opens Friday. The Newseum says it includes Lady Gaga's first appearance in a Washington museum.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Presley, Ali photos tell stories of two American icons at Pennsylvania museum

LEE NEWMAN, COOLDIVES.CA/THE CANADIAN PRESS/HO

▶ The cold waters of the Pacific teem with colour and life under the surface in British Columbia. Some of the most beautiful parts of the province lie under the surface of the ocean, say divers, who come from around the world to explore the colourful marine life and underwater creatures that call the Pacific home.

Go explore B.C's underwater wonders

Canada's West Coast beauty is not limited to forests and mountains

From a crevice on the ocean floor, the prehistoric-looking face of a wolf eel emerges from the darkness, all bulging eyes and warts bobbing toward the camera.

Most divers off the coast of British Columbia consider an encounter with these puckered creatures one of the highlights of plying the waters off the West Coast of Canada. Sometimes called the "puppies" of the sea, described as among the friendliest creatures to be encountered in the wild, eager to cuddle at popular dive sites where they have become accustomed to visitors from above the surface.

"They look mean, they look ugly but, just as long as you're careful, you can actually go and touch them, they will snuggle with you," says Paul Kennell, creator of CoolDives.com, a website dedicated to diving off the B.C. coast. "They're funny looking things but they're pretty gentle, generally."

Kennell has explored oceans around the world in his 15 years of diving but reserves his best reviews for his home waters. The tropics are warmer, says Kennell, "but the diving is also nowhere near as exciting."

Lore has it that famed underwater explorer Jacques Cousteau proclaimed the waters off the coast of British Columbia the best cold-water diving in the world. Scuba Diving Magazine readers chose B.C. the No. 1 diving site in North America last year.

"The diving around B.C. is amongst the best in the world," agrees Greg Dombowsky, curator of Dive.BC.ca and author of the Divers Guide Vancouver Island South.

The waters off the B.C. coast boast the giant Pacific octopus, the biggest sea stars and forests of giant sponges. Under the surface, the water teems with a rainbow of life, including anemones, sea cucumbers and coral. THE CANADIAN PRESS

If you go ...

- Tourism British Columbia's website (hellobc.com) includes information on diving in the province, diving tours and practical tips for planning a vacation.
- CoolDives.com has information and online bookings for scuba diving trip.
- Dive.BC.ca is another website that has great information, photos and videos to help plan a trip.

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The forgotten National Park

Waterton Lakes National Park in Alberta has the beauty of Jasper and Banff without the huge crowds

When it comes to tourist destinations, Waterton Lakes National Park may very well be Canada's best-kept secret.

Tucked away in the southwestern corner of Alberta, 180 kilometres from Calgary, Waterton attracts just 400,000 visitors a year despite the fact it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, an International Peace Park and a Biosphere Reserve.

There are wildflowers and wildlife galore and the snowcapped Rocky Mountains suddenly rise out of the rolling Prairies as you arrive.

Waterton was Canada's fourth national park, created in 1895 and named after Waterton Lake. The lake is named after Victorian naturalist and conservationist Charles Waterton.

The park contains 505 square kilometres of rugged mountains and wilderness and is seriously off the beaten path.

"When I first moved to Alberta and moved to Waterton, nobody knew where it was and that includes people in Calgary. I would do trade shows. I was selling Waterton because nobody knew where it was," said Shameer Suleman, vice-president of the Waterton Chamber of Commerce.

The one thing that Waterton offers that Banff, Lake Louise and even Jasper National Parks cannot is peace and quiet.

That means it is the perfect getaway, especially for those wanting to spend time in a more tranquil setting.

"When I'm talking to a potential employee, I say it's what Banff was 30 or 40 years ago or Whistler was 30 or 40 years ago," said Suleman.

"Not to mention, it's beautiful and not a lot of people know about it. It's a different feeling and to have so much untouched hiking and biking trails available. You aren't bumping into someone every five minutes. It feels like you almost have the park to yourself."

Suleman said it is the hiking and mountain biking that attracts many visitors to the park.

"I mean, Crypt Lake is constantly in the top 10 hikes in North America. It has a really well rounded Stanley Thompson-designed golf course which is now renovated. It's a big attraction," he said.

"They just finished some new biking trails. The shoreline cruises, which go down into Montana and you get dropped off in Glacier Park and go down to Goat Haunt and then you get to come back up, are also highlights."

Waterton Lakes National Park borders Glacier National Park in Montana to the south, together making up the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park.

There are plenty of campsites at the park but only 300 hotel spaces, so tourists are encouraged to check availability if they don't want to rough it.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

If you go ...

- Waterton is 180 kilometres southwest of Calgary. If you are driving from the Calgary International Airport head south on Highway 2 down to Cardston. Turn right on Highway 5 and the road takes you directly to the park.
- The Wildflower Festival runs June 18 to 26; watertonwildflowers.com
- The Wildlife Festival runs September 23 to 25; trailofthegreatbear.com.

BILL GRAVELAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Cameron Lake in Waterton Lakes National Park. Waterton attracts 400,000 visitors a year and is a favourite location for hikers.

BILL GRAVELAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Waterton Lakes National Park, created in 1895 is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, an International Peace Park and a Bisosphere Reserve.

Meet the locals in Prague

IVA FRUHKKINGOVA
TRAVEL@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN PRAGUE

Prague is the heart of Europe and you can feel its vibrancy in every step you take. It's a great place for lovers to take a romantic trip, admire and learn about the culture and enjoy nice dinners by the riverside. It's also the place to be if you like nothing more than a good party, especially if you are a fan of beer… we Czech are very proud of our beer. I am always drawn back to my city.

For more information check out czechtourism.com

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Charles Bridge

First time?

First things first, get yourself to the centre of town, over to the Old Town Square, Staroměstké Náměstí. On the façade of the Old Town Hall is the medieval Astronomical clock, then walk across Charles Bridge, one of the most romantic sites in the city. Spend the afternoon touring the castle where the crown jewels are displayed as well the beautiful baroque Church of St. Nicholas directly below. There is also a nice shopping street called Pařížská where you'll find all the high-end stores including Louis Vuitton.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Prague is full of laid-back locals who enjoy their beer.

Eat

Sasazu (sasazu.com) is by far the best Asian restaurant I have ever eaten at and I've lived in Paris, so I know my food! It's a little far out but you have to try it. Go on a Friday or Saturday night as there's a club right next door with amazing live gigs. In the summer I go for Zelená Zahrada (zelena-zahrada.eu) on Šmilovského street to take advantage of their sunny terrace.

▶ Sasuzu

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ONTARIO
Yours to discover

Stay in

I love the music-themed Hotel Aria. You can be in the mood for anything from Billy Joel to Beyoncé. Coda, the hotel's restaurant, is worth spending one night 'in' for. It's also right around the corner from St Nicholas Cathedral. (ariahotel.net)

Go out

Prague has cool bars to go to and funky parties going on at all times. After dinner at Sasazu I recommend you try out an interesting bar called Druhé Patro (2patro.cz). It's more like a big apartment with a bar and a small stage. It often has good DJs and it's the perfect place to ease yourself into the evening.

Don't be afraid when you walk in to the building. It looks like you're going to someone's apartment, but there really is a bar on that second floor.

CZECHTOURISM.COM

▶ Clubbing in Prague.

All the fun people finish the night at Aloha (alohapraha.cz), a small place in a little street just behind Pařížská.

If you are at a loss for where to move on next, there are two good clubs, Roxy (roxy.cz), or Radost (radostfx.cz) depending on your mood (or the queue) that night.

Been there before?

Immerse yourself in local life. What better way to do so than by meeting some Czech people — we are really nice! Hanging out with locals is the best way to get to know a culture, so go to a typical Czech bar, known as 'hospoda', drink good beer and make some friends. From there, I would go and have a typically Czech dinner of Bohemian cabbage pancakes or potato soup at Kolkovna, (kolkovna.cz). If ever you need a back up, great traditional food is also served at Potrefená husa' (potrefenahusa.cz).

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Relax with a beer.

Shopping!

All the high-end stores are on a street called Pařížská, but I get a lot of my clothes from a Czech designer called Denisa Nová (denisanova.cz). Her shop is on a little street called Náprstkova by the river and close to Charles Bridge. I love her style, classic and comfortable, yet very elegant. There is also a cheap shop called Diva (Mikuladská 2), that I love. They call in designer pieces from across the country and sell them at reasonable prices. It's a small shop, but has some amazing finds.

CZECHTOURISM.COM

▶ Pařížská Street.

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Munich Air + First 2 Nights — $385
Hotel Alfa + taxes & fees $502
INCLUDES central accom with breakfast daily. Departs Jun 14/vat/ts. **ADD** 3-days in 1-month German Rail Pass for $236.

Paris Air + First 2 Nights — $479
All Seasons Paris Bercy + taxes & fees $475
INCLUDES central accom with breakfast. Departs Jun 13/vat/ts. **ADD** 3-days in 1-month France Rail Pass for $246.

Barcelona Air + First 2 Nights — $699
Del Mar + taxes & fees $384
INCLUDES central accom with breakfast. Departs May 7/vat/ts.

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A trip to North America's outback

THE TRAVELLIN' CANADIAN

DARREN PARKMAN
TRAVEL@METRONEWS.CA

You'd almost think you were somewhere in the middle of the Australian outback, but acres of sand, leaping lizards and miles of cacti are only as far as trendy Scottsdale, Ariz.

It was amazing to discover only a few minutes walk behind Scottsdale's upscale Four Season's hotel lies a whole other barren world. More than 200,000 tourists visit this wild area every year, to scale the rocky desert mountain known as Pinnacle Peak. Believe me, this is no easy task, especially when's it's 30C in the shade!

On the way up, I encountered wild desert jack rabbits, lizards galore and even spotted the elusive javelina pig that is well known to the desert locals. After hiking straight uphill for more than an hour, I found myself out of breath and a bit embarrassed, when a group of seniors suddenly jogged by me without so much as a gasp.

The pinnacle hike is worth the effort though, if only for the million dollar panoramic view of the desert. Feeling emboldened by my brush with nature, my next adventure was nothing short of a blast — literally.

Desert Wolf adventures offers truly the most spectacular back-road tour I've ever been on. They actually trusted me to drive my own custom desert dune buggy called a Tomcar, through some of the bumpiest, roughest, downright gut churning terrain a city boy has ever experienced.

These remote desert roads — if you can call them that — are so full of giant potholes and giant boulders, it's like an extended roller coaster ride.

Way out in the middle of the desert we visited an ancient Indian fort, high a top a bluff, with a view of hundreds of famous Saguaro cactus almost resembling an army below us.

These strange giant cacti are so rare and valuable, that a full grown one can fetch thousands of dollars. But out here in the heart of the Senoran desert they stood proud and plentiful as far as the eye could see. This sight alone is worth the trip to Arizona's outback.

DARREN PARKMAN

▶ Taking a drive in a desert dune buggy is a great way to spend an afternoon in Scottsdale, Ariz.

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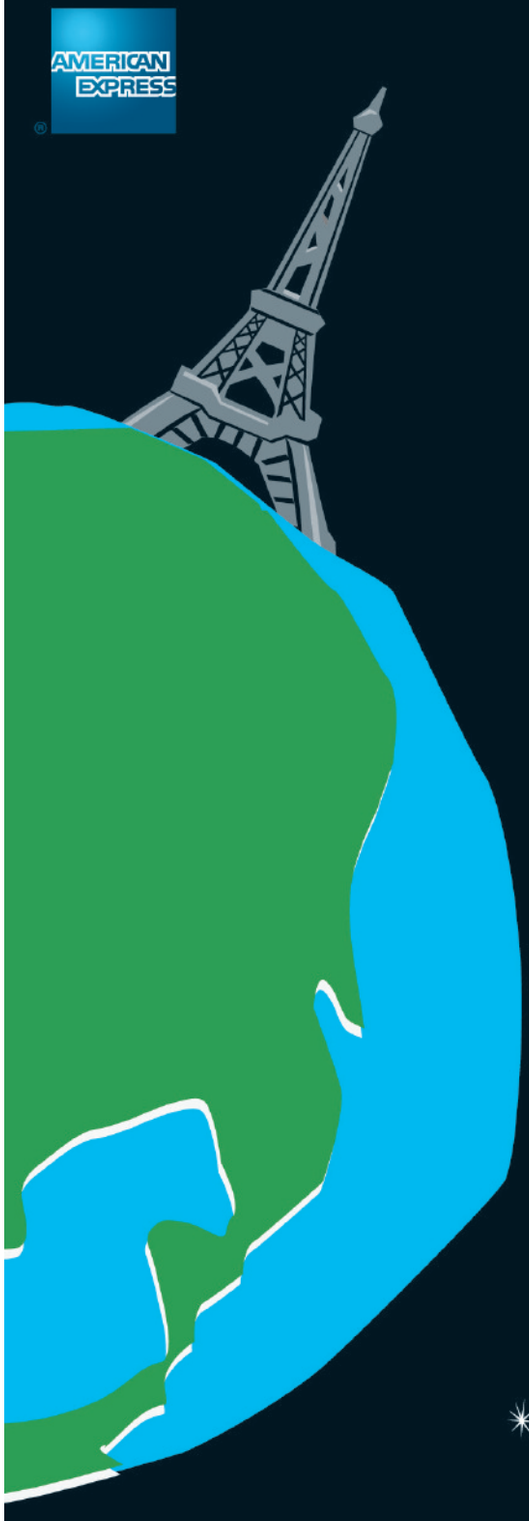

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THE CHANGING WORLD OF REWARDS PROGRAMS

CANADIANS LOVE THEIR REWARDS CARDS

So much so that it is estimated that 94% of us are enrolled in some type of loyalty program, according to market researcher Colloquy.

These programs encourage or 'reward' shoppers for their continued patronage or 'loyalty', in the form of discounts or points that may be redeemed against a variety of goods and services. They also enable the retailer to track their customers' preferences and trends.

There are a great number and variety of programs, and the list is constantly growing. From specialized credit cards, to retail and grocery club cards, to free refill cards at local cafés, it seems that everyone is vying for loyalty.

Geoff Dillon, a senior director at CIBC says "Certainly one of the trends we're seeing is that people increasingly are focused on value, and they want to earn as many rewards as possible, but particularly on things they buy every day." CIBC's AeroGold card lets you accumulate 1.5 Aeroplan miles for every dollar you spend at gas, grocery and drugstores.

The key to the success of a number of these programs lies in advances in information technology. Companies are experimenting with new, compelling, high-tech methods to deliver reward programs. LoyaltyOne, the parent company of Air Miles, has just released a new mobile app for the iPhone, explains spokesperson Jeff Fredericks. "The mobile app allows you to find sponsors on the fly, check in to those sponsor locations and see what the best deals are. That has been a tremendous success for us so far."

At the same time, redeeming reward points can help stretch the budget. "We certainly saw during the downturn, that folks were turning to their reward programs to stretch that dollar further," says Fredericks. "And, it just makes sense. There are a number of reward items like gift certificates for example, that people were taking advantage of during the tough times."

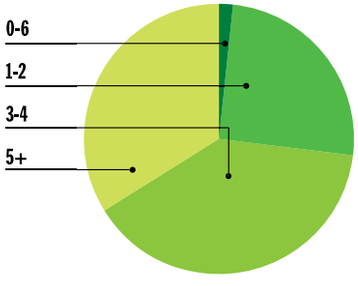
Today, there are myriad ways to redeem accumulated points. For example, Royal Bank Avion cardholders can use their points at a rate of 100 points per dollar to book a trip, hotel, or car rental. The Sears Choice Rewards Program allows customers to earn one point for every dollar spent on eligible purchases using the Sears MasterCard. A common trend is to bundle rewards through partnerships between retailers that allow shoppers to swap their points.

– By Duncan McAllister

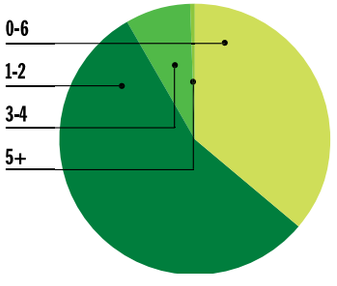
METRO READERS & LOYALTY PROGRAMS

THE METRO LIFE PANEL WEIGHS IN ABOUT POINT COLLECTION AND REDEMPTION

HOW MANY LOYALTY & REWARDS CARDS DO YOU OWN?



HOW MANY LOYALTY & REWARDS CARDS DOUBLE AS A CREDIT CARD?



TOP 10 THINGS TO SPEND LOYALTY & REWARDS POINTS ON

1. Food
2. Gift Certificates
3. Airfare
4. Cosmetics
5. Clothing
6. Movies
7. Hotel Stays
8. Gas
9. Home Décor
10. Spas

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REWARDS BY THE NUMBERS

CARD FILES

More than 75% of consumers today have at least one loyalty card. It is estimated that one third of all shoppers have two or more cards, according to Jupiter Research.

According to a recent Leger survey, more than 80% of women belong to more than one loyalty program compared to only 69% of men, and one in four women carry at least five loyalty cards.

A Maritz marketing study found that shoppers who are young, female, with children under 18 years, are likely to carry a rewards card.

FLYER PROGRAMS

The airline industry is credited with innovating the frequent flier plans, which were the models for most modern loyalty programs, with American Airlines being one of the first in 1981.

The Air Miles reward program is Canada's largest loyalty program, founded in 1992, with more than 10 million active collector accounts, representing approximately two-thirds of all Canadian households. Air Miles can be earned at more than 100 different sponsors with a thousand different rewards to be redeemed.

In 2009, Aeroplan issued over 2.1 million rewards to its members, including 1.5 million flights on Air Canada and Star Alliance carriers. Aeroplan was originally Air Canada's frequent flyer program created in 1984.

SPENDING HABITS

Loyalty shoppers spend more money, according to a study by marketing group Maritz. They found that consumers who are enrolled in loyalty programs tend to spend more money than non-members.

Loyalty programs increase merchants' sales. In one study, it was found that a popular "baby club" was responsible for increased sales of baby products by 25% on average over six months. It also increased the amounts purchased and increased store traffic by 5%.

Almost every Canadian gas station offers some type of rewards program, such as Canadian Tire money and Petro-Canada's Petro-Points.

WHAT'S NEW

Technology is the leading enabler of rewards programs. Vendors such as RewardMe and FourSquare use QR codes, the popular, square-shaped barcodes that customers scan with their iPhone and Android after they have made a purchase, to collect rewards.

Manufacturers are getting on the rewards bandwagon with promotions that allow you to enter a code from specially marked packages and products into their websites to collect rewards.

Programs are more flexible than ever. Companies like Charity Choice allow you to redeem your points towards any of a 100 different charities from a wide range of rewards programs. Also, the Marriott Hotel Rewards program allows you to donate points to benefit the recent Japan tragedy.

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President's Choice FINANCIAL

Minimum redemption is 20,000 PC points (worth $20 in free rewards) and in increments of 10,000 PC points thereafter, at participating stores where President's Choice products are sold. PC points are not redeemable against the purchase of tobacco, lottery tickets, alcohol, prescription medication, milk in Quebec, or any products or services prohibited by law or as determined from time to time. * When you receive your President's Choice Financial® MasterCard®, you will also receive four welcome coupons, each worth 5,000 PC points with any purchase at the checkout in participating stores where President's Choice products are sold, using your President's Choice Financial MasterCard. Allow 6–8 weeks for PC points on coupon to be added to your account. See coupons for full details. Coupons have no cash value. ® PC, President's Choice, PC Financial and President's Choice Financial are registered trademarks of Loblaws Inc. Trademarks used under licence. ®/™ MasterCard and the MasterCard Brand Mark are registered trademarks and *PayPass* is a trademark of MasterCard International Incorporated. President's Choice Bank a licensee of the marks. All other trademarks are property of Loblaws Inc. President's Choice Financial MasterCard is provided by President's Choice Bank. PC points program is provided by President's Choice Services Inc.

POINTS FOR JOINING

After more than a decade, cashing in PC points is still the quickest, easiest, and most fun part of being a President's Choice Financial services customer.

PC points can be redeemed for many things such as (but not limited to): Free groceries, flowers, gift cards, cosmetics, Joe Fresh Style fashions; electronics and patio furniture. They can even be donated to President's Choice Children's Charity. Customers redeem their points right at the checkout at participating supermarkets where President's Choice products are sold.

Customers earn 10 PC points for every dollar spent on purchases anywhere the PC MasterCard is accepted, and five PC points for every dollar spent with the PC Financial bank card at participating stores where President's Choice products are sold. They can first redeem at the 20,000-point level (equivalent to a $20 purchase), or higher amounts in further 10,000 point increments. There's no limit to how many PC points a customer can build up, and they never expire.

More earning opportunities can be found on the PC points Facebook page. Customers who 'like' the popular page (with over 55,000 fans and counting) can discover—and inquire about—various new contests and promotions. The page recently announced a three-day '10x Spring Ahead Event,' allowing customers spending $100 or more at selected Real Canadian Superstore locations to earn 10 times their usual PC points when using their PC Financial Mastercard or bank card.

Facebook wasn't around 10 years ago, but once it got big, PC Financial services got onboard. The PC points page is just one more example of the company listening to its customers, then adapting to their needs. That philosophy will serve it well in next the 10 years, too—bank on it.

CHARGE, EARN, REDEEM

THIS YEAR MARKS THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PRESIDENT'S CHOICE FINANCIAL MASTERCARD IN CANADA.

Since 2001, Canadians have been using their cards for everyday purchases and earning PC points at the same time. The more they use their cards, the more PC points they earn—it's easy.

A lot of things come easy to PC Financial MasterCard holders. They receive their first 20,000 PC points in the form of coupons (equivalent to $20) just for signing up; if they sign up online, they'll earn an additional 5,000 PC points. They also enjoy a low balance transfer rate of 0.97% for six months. And when they need to pay for a product or service at places that don't accept credit cards, they can use a personalized cheque, orderable for free from PC Financial.

Cardholders save money with no annual fee. They can also save paper: Instead of having statements mailed each month, PC Financial Mastercard holders can register for electronic statements, available online at PC Financial's website; receiving e-alerts when statements are ready, and, optionally, when they're due.

All credit card information is secure. Cardholders can quickly review summaries of their accounts and recent transactions anytime at www.pcfinancial.ca, logging in with a password. Cardholders can also receive up to four additional cards on their PC Financial MasterCard accounts, personalized for family members, free of charge. For added protection, new and reissued cards come with a microchip built in.

Redeeming PC points is a snap, as always. All cardholders have to do is present their PC Financial MasterCards at the check-out at participating stores where PC products are sold, then tell the cashier they're redeeming their PC points. This is the simplicity that's kept the PC Financial MasterCard popular with Canadians for a decade and counting.

WHO WANTS TO BE A MILLIONAIRE?

President's Choice Financial services is celebrating 10 years of its PC Financial MasterCard in Canada—starting with a contest destined to make 10 winners very happy. The 'Become a PC points Millionaire' contest, running until May 30, 2011, will see 10 Canadians receive one million PC points each, joining the approximately 2,200 Canadians with a points balance of one million or more. A point total that high can be redeemed for $1,000 of free groceries, fashions, or almost any other item sold at participating Loblaw Companies Limited stores.

Existing cardholders, those wishing to apply for a PC Financial MasterCard or Canadians interested in joining the PC points millionaire club are eligible to enter the contest. Visit www.pcpointscontest.ca for details.

A BANK WITHOUT BRANCHES

Designed by Loblaw Companies Limited, President's Choice Financial provides customers with account access via Internet, telephone or bank machine—24 hours a day, seven days a week. Its banking services are provided by CIBC, saving money on overhead and passing it along to customers through the elimination of daily banking fees.

For PC Financial customers, everyday banking is a chance to earn 'PC points,' redeemable toward free groceries and thousands of other rewards in-store. Customers can also earn PC points by shopping with their PC Financial MasterCard, provided by President's Choice Bank. Both PC Financial MasterCard and PC points accounts can be accessed online.

FLYING HIGH ON LOYALTY & REWARDS

WHEN IT COMES TO THREE POINTS HERE OR 50 THERE, KEN HAMER IS DOWNRIGHT DISMISSIVE.

"When you're collecting mega points from flying, hotels and rental cars, the 15 points you might get from filling up your tank is like handing out pennies," says the Burnaby resident, who's flown 2.5 million miles in his career as a marine electronics technician.

"Occasionally, you see Air Canada offering 100 points for taking a survey. For 100 points, I don't get out of bed."

As a super elite frequent flyer with Air Canada's Aeroplan program, it's all about the 'borderline obscene' service and benefits that add comfort to his lengthy flights to Australia, Asia and Europe. The pampering includes having his own concierge service, which advocates on Hamer's behalf and handles any difficulties that might arise. The food and drink is upscale and unlimited, including a several-course meal starting with warm nuts and an après-dinner cheese plate. In business class, your seat converts to a bed. Staff welcomes you by name.

It's the stuff you see in movies… when you're super elite, it doesn't matter how late you check in, you push everyone else back as you take priority. When loading, VIP passengers never wait in line.

As a super elite flyer, Hamer can buy an economy ticket to Sydney for $1,500 and have it upgraded to business class, which typically costs $10,000 to $12,000.

"I couldn't do this job if I had to travel in economy class," says the 55-year-old who until about two years ago was away 200 days each year. "It would kill me."

Hamer is legendary among points collectors who share tips online about their globetrotting adventures for a huge score that began with the U.S. $800 purchase in magazine subscriptions. He laundered that purchase through four rewards programs, travelled to Cairo and back and through a series of legitimate manipulations received a voucher worth $14,000 that he used to fly around Europe for the next three years.

Hamer has so many points he ends up giving them away, which is something, he says, many frequent flyers do. His mother and a friend recently took a trip to Spain on 200,000 points he gave her for her birthday and the Vancouver TheatreSports League has benefitted from his generosity for nearly a decade.

While Hamer's quite happy to be flying much less these days, he indulged a little last February to escape the crowds and traffic of the Vancouver Olympics.

"So I went to Tokyo for a day and came home and felt better about it."

– By Kelly Putter

GREAT WAYS TO RACK UP YOUR REWARD POINTS

1. Figure out which programs you're more likely to use. Line them up with your interests.
2. Spend strategically. Use a few loyalty programs otherwise your points will accumulate slowly.
3. Look for cards with bonus point promotions.
4. Make sure your annual credit card fees aren't more than what you redeem your points for.
5. Charge all your monthly expenses, including if you can, utility bills, insurance payments, rent or even your mortgage payment.
6. Offer to use your card to purchase big ticket items for family or friends to earn the rewards.

© World Vision

Children and World Vision staff colouring at a World Vision Child Friendly Space in an evacuation centre in Tome City, Japan.

DONATING YOUR REWARDS

GIVING IS ALIVE AND WELL IN CANADA.

According to a national survey at givingandvolunteering.ca, rates of giving, volunteering and participating have increased in the last ten years. But you don't need to read the survey to believe it – just check out the number of rewards programs that are turning miles and points into charitable dollars. Last year, for example, two million Aeroplan miles were donated to charitable organizations. Considering that Aeroplan customers have the highest redemptions – over 70% – for prized items like travel, it becomes an even bigger deal. That two million miles? It equals 1.3 million flights.

"People usually have a goal for collecting miles, like taking the family to Disney or whatever," says Aeroplan's director of community engagement Alden Hadwen, "so giving them up is a major sacrifice."

That giving spikes during emergencies, like the recent Japan earthquake disaster, which brought in 500,000 miles, Hadwen says. "Plus the donor who gave a million miles."

The miles donated are turned over to one of Aeroplan's nine partners that include Doctors without Borders, the Red Cross and the Stephen Lewis Foundation. The organization dispenses with the donation as they see fit: travel and hotels to get volunteers overseas, electronic equipment, or vehicle rentals.

Many charities are reaping the points' benefits. World Vision, for example, garnered over $8,000 Best Western dollars for Haiti relief last year. It's too early in the Japan relief campaign, says WV's corporate development manager Neil Parekh, to say how much will be collected altogether.

Parekh says the rewards partnership is about more than raising money. It also raises awareness, and engagement, allowing people the opportunity to feel they are concretely doing something.

Although Daily Bread Food Bank is a newcomer to the rewards donation scene, executive director Gail Nyberg says it's been an auspicious start. Sobey's, their partner in this venture, has given them 500,000 points, equalling $4,000 in food buying power.

"Sobey's has donated goods to us before, but the rewards program is new," Nyberg says.

Daily Bread goes through 12 million pounds of food a year. About 15% of that has to be purchased – such as fresh items that can't be donated, or for things not normally donated, such as baby formula, or Boost for people with compromised immune systems.

"This has significant potential for us," Nyberg says. "Your points can mean that our clients can have fresh vegetables, dairy or meat that week."

Most rewards programs have a charitable donation option, so check the website for details. – *By Alex Newman*

EAT UP, FUEL UP...SAVE UP!

Canadians are loyal, but they're loyal on their own terms.

Barry Columb knows this well; the CEO of President's Choice Financial is celebrating 10 years of the PC Financial MasterCard in Canada, a success built on giving customers the program they want, when and where they want it.

PC Financial customers earn 10 PC points for every dollar spent on purchases anywhere the PC MasterCard is accepted, and five PC points per dollar using their PC Financial debit card at a Loblaw location. There's no limit to how many PC points a customer can acquire, and they never expire.

"Some build up their PC points for special occasions, or wait for a new lineup of products to appear," says Columb. "Others just redeem month in and month out for free groceries. The choice is theirs."

PC points can be redeemed for many other things, like flowers, cosmetics, clothing and electronics. But whether it's a gift for someone special or the basics of an everyday meal, the power's in the hands of the cardholder.

PC Financial has become a Canadian household name through its loyalty program – a feat Canadian Tire achieved many years ago, and continues to benefit from today.

"It makes sense to talk about Canadian Tire 'money' as a reward for gas purchases, because that's how it all started for us," says Adrienne Alexander, Manager, Corporate Communications. "Canadian Tire Money originated as a cash bonus coupon at our gas bars in the late-50s. It has been offered in-store since 1961."

Today, customers who pay with cash, debit or the Options MasterCard earn Canadian Tire Money for use in the company's retail stores. And every week, 'gas multiplier' coupons (available from flyers or the gas bar cashier) allow them to increase the amount they earn anywhere from four to 10 times. Those paying with their Options MasterCard automatically get the highest posted multiplier, no coupon required. – *By Chris Edwards*

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BANK CARDS ARE BIG ON REWARDS!

BE SMART ABOUT HOW YOU EARN POINTS

When musician Daniel Edwards decided to turn his garage into a man cave for jam sessions with his friends on Saturday afternoons, he was smart about it. He ratcheted up his Air Miles by using his Bank of Montreal credit card and purchasing materials at RONA, so by the time the garage was done, he accrued enough rewards for a European holiday.

It's a smart way to make money go farther, and a move that BMO product manager Rebecca Tascona calls "double dipping."

Being smart about how you earn points can garner big payouts and provide members with those luxuries they might not otherwise be able to afford.

Every bank offers a reward program that can be used with everything from gas and groceries, to banking and online shopping. They offer points for dollars spent, even in some cases when you're spending on your mortgage payments.

Redeeming points can take a few forms: cash back on bank products like RSPs, RESPs, or mortgage; merchandise from the financial institution's catalogue; or for travel with whichever miles program your bank partners with.

Michael Pezzack, a mortgage agent with Buyingblock.com, says to do your homework when selecting a banking rewards program for cash back on mortgages or RSPs: "Since a mortgage is likely the largest financial transaction you'll make, and even a tiny rate differential can impact the final cost, it's wise to shop around for the best product and rate."

Sojka says to check exactly what your bank program offers, and if it's a merchandise program that you'd rather not have, ask about upgrading to a travel miles program.

Check out the various bank rewards programs at rewardscanada.ca.

– By Alex Newman

TRAVEL REWARDS PROGRAM ARE FLYING HIGH!

The irresistible lure of turning your weekly grocery run into a sun-drenched trip to the Cayman Islands makes travel rewards programs like Aeroplan and Air Miles perennial favourites. Flexibility is the buzz word, with programs competing to offer more places to earn points and more ways to spend them.

David Klein, vice-president of marketing at Aeroplan, says travel is hugely popular. After listening to customers, Aeroplan this year launched Last-Minute Travel, which allows members to go to the website, plug in their home city, and find a list of available outbound flights to Canada, the U.S. and sun destinations for the next 14 days and coming home for the next 28 days. "A lot of our rewards are booked within two weeks of departure," he says.

The hot spots are the hot spots: Florida, Bermuda and the Cayman Islands. Others fly to visit family for a long weekend.

Klein says while most people have long-term travel plans for their points, some collect treats along the way, turning points into things like Esso cards, Ipads or "money can't buy" items like a signed Montreal Canadiens hockey stick. As an added bonus, those miles are in turn donated to charity. You can even buy carbon offsets with your miles to cover some of the environmental cost of your trip.

Laurel Ostfield of Capital One agrees. She says their upcoming Fusion program focuses on flexibility because that's what customers want. "It's about putting the choice in the hands of the cardholder," she says. That means points can be spent on anything travel related: a cruise, hotel, rental car, flight. Ostfield says some people even use them for slightly less glamorous trips by converting points into a Metropass to get around Toronto.

Air Miles is focusing on "Let yourself go" resort trips, dream holidays to Europe and weekly specials via Air Canada and West Jet. Customers can also spend points on non-travel items like music systems, barbeques, or coffee makers via offers at Airmiles.ca.

– By Jon Tattrie

ARE YOU SITTING ON YOUR POINTS?

Although redeeming points is gradually on the increase, an Angus Reid poll last fall found that nearly one in four people lets their points expire, and another quarter are sitting on a large bank of points with no clear plan how to redeem.

It's one reason American Express reminds their customers about "the range of opportunities for redeeming points," says Tracy Hendricks, Amex's VP of new business development.

EXPERIENTIAL REWARDS

Once you've saved up for your trip of a lifetime to Las Vegas, you might find you have a few points left over. David Klein at Aeroplan says that's why it created its "experiential" rewards. In Vegas, that could mean tacking on a helicopter tour of the Grand Canyon, a white water rafting adventure or tickets to a Cirque du Soleil show.

OPTIONS ABOUND FOR CLOTHING AND HOUSEWARES

Rewards programs for clothing and home furnishings used to operate like the Price is Right: you'd gain your credits and then have to spend them on whatever the store put into its Showcase Showdown. Now, it's more Who Wants to Be a Millionaire: turn points into gift cards to spend where you want.

"People prefer to go into the store and look at the 25 different kinds of toasters we may have, rather than one you'd have on the site," explains Stephanie Thornbury of the Hudson Bay Company. "They tend to redeem them for the gift cards."

She says most customers save up HBC Rewards for big ticket items like washers and dryers, but often treat themselves – or treat others at birthdays and Christmas – on the way with smaller items like coffee machines or gift cards for restaurants like Montana's or Swiss Chalet. HBC owns the Bay, Zellers, Home Outfitters and Fields, and its programs connect across the stores.

Like other credit-card tied products, the Royal Bank of Canada's deal with Visa lets members turn points into gift cards to save at retail outlets.

Andrea Shaikin, manager of RBC Rewards, says their program partners with Future Shop, Golf Town, Starbucks and others to allow customers to turn points into savings.

"People are very fond of the gift cards and being able to turn your points into a shopping trip or a gift for someone – that's grown about 20 per cent, year over year, the last two or three years," she says. "Our most popular ones are on the retail side – department stores or gas."

Turning RBC points into pre-set catalogue items like bedding, kitchen appliances and gadgets are a pragmatic way to cash in. RBC Rewards points are still primarily collected through Visa, but Shaikin says they've added a personal deposit account at the bank which can also add points. – *By Jon Tattrie*

CANADIAN TIRE MONEY

In the 1950s, Canadian Tire co-founder A.J. Billes noticed oil companies had started giving their customers toasters and dishes and he decided to offer his customers Canadian Tire money along with their regular change. The first dollar was printed in 1958. By 1961, it was printed on the same paper as regular money and now comes with many of the same anti-counterfeiting technologies. This makes it harder to fake – and makes customers reluctant to throw away bills that feel like the real thing.

8 REWARD POINTS COLLECTORS

DOZENS OF CARDS

As a devoted rewards point collector, Allan Marston is not your typical nine-card-carrying Canadian. The 54-year-old Calgary account manager has over 45 rewards cards, 20 of which he keeps in his wallet to help purchase such items as patio furniture and an iPhone. "If I'm spending money, I like to be rewarded," says Marston. "I'm fanatical about it. I'll be running my car on empty until I can get to a gas station that I can gather points with."

THE MOVIES

"I'm a Scotia Scene points whore," says Etobicoke's Elisabeth Kowalski, who jokes about being the first in line to obtain the bank's credit and debit cards that help fuel a lifelong film addiction. "I haven't paid for a movie or snacks in years."

RELIEF EFFORTS

The tsunami that hit the South Pacific in 2004 prompted Mississauga's Jeff Werner to donate Air Miles points to the Red Cross's disaster relief effort. Since then, he's donated points to relief efforts in Haiti and to the World Wildlife Fund. "While I try to be generous with my donations, having the opportunity to donate points is another great way to fulfill my need to give," says the United Church minister.

DISNEY WORLD

London writer Suzanne Boles credits Air Miles for her family's trip of a lifetime to Disney World 12 years ago. Making ends meet was tough then so squeezing in a much-needed break was a welcome relief. Besides, Boles's husband, who had turned 50, wanted to visit a place that would make him feel young. Their 12-year-old daughter loved it too!

MILES AND MILES

As a mergers and acquisitions consultant, Oakville's Terry Quinn has already travelled 80,000 miles since January. In a 40-year career, he's racked up over five million miles. Thankfully, he loves to travel and has been to over 115 countries and not had to fly "back of the bus" or economy in the past eight years.

CANADIAN TIRE

Regina's Monty Loree enjoyed a five-year-streak of redeeming about $100 per week at the local Canadian Tire. Spending $40,000 to $50,000 per month on his Canadian Tire Credit card for his company netted him some good home and garden swag. "People would comment when I came in each week with $100 in points," recalls the online credit advisor.

PERFUME AND MAKE-UP

Ashley is an Oakville points hoarder who doesn't want to be identified for fear of appearing cheap. She racks up points on five programs and in early April finally broke down and redeemed some of the Shoppers Optimum points she'd been collecting for 12 years. "I'm still not sure I did the right thing," she says, adding that she bought perfume and make-up.

POTS AND PANS

In the interest of no-nonsense romance, Ray Reuter of Chilliwack gets full marks for using his points to buy his girlfriend a set of premium pots and pans valued at $1,400. He accumulated points on his MasterCard for three years while in grad school, charging everything from his rent and textbooks. The result? He married that foodie woman and his boss liked the gesture so much, he too, bought a set for his wife. – *By Kelly Putter*

PERFORMING JUST FOR YOU

ENTERTAINMENT IS A PERSONAL THING, AND SO ARE LOYALTY PROGRAMS.

As some of Canada's biggest entertainment providers have learned, the personal touch scores major points with customers.

"At Indigo Books and Music, people want to be rewarded for everything they purchase from us," says Jennifer Hale, VP, Loyalty & CRM. "Our response is 'plum rewards.'"

Plum rewards members earn 10 points for almost every dollar spent on items in-store, plus up to five per cent off books purchased at chapters.indigo.ca, and there's no fee to join. When they log on to their accounts, they review promotional offers and information about special shopping events, along with book and product recommendations, personalized to them. The more open-minded customers are, the more plum rewards can help.

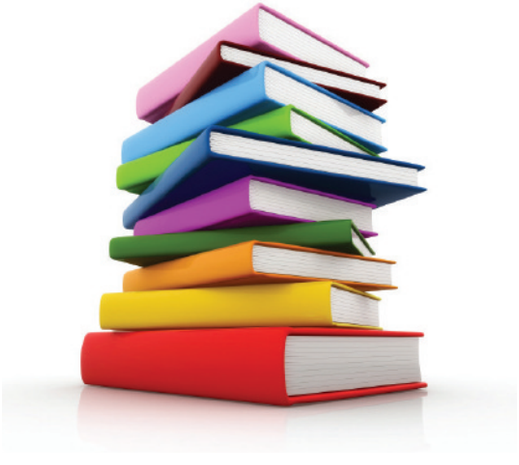
The same is true for SCENE, the loyalty program offered jointly by Cineplex and Scotiabank. Members make purchases with a SCENE card (there are several kinds), earning points and redeeming them for movie tickets and much more.

"Our members love to go out—and they want all the value they can get from a loyalty program," says general manager, Shawn Bloom. SCENE keeps up with them on Facebook and Twitter, and through its new Cineplex app, allowing members to check points balances anywhere and earn SCENE points for all mobile transactions. With the app, they don't need to carry a card at all.

Like SCENE, HMV Canada's 'purehmv' program serves an active membership. "Our members are all passionate about entertainment, but their spending habits vary," says Benjamin Sadeh, manager, customer rewards. "So we created a range of redemption options. We have items valued as low as 3,500 points and as high as 1.2 million."

Customers with a purehmv card earn 100 points for every dollar they spend on HMV products in-store or online, redeeming them for new products, memorabilia, in-store discounts, or for entry in Members Only contests.

What members want, members get. – *By Chris Edwards*



MIRVISH SUBSCRIBERS REAP REWARDS

Few art forms inspire more loyalty than theatre, especially in Toronto. So how does Mirvish Productions, Canada's largest commercial theatre production company, adapt the loyalty-program concept to its big-budget shows? Very carefully, says John Karastamatis, Mirvish's director of communications.

"Loyalty programs work best when one buys fairly low priced products on a regular basis," he says. "Going to the theatre is comparatively expensive and infrequent. There's more planning and etiquette involved than, say, going to the movies. A traditional points program doesn't fit that model, so we approach loyalty in a different way."

For those who appreciate theatre enough to attend it often, Mirvish offers a subscription package: tickets to a season's worth of shows, available for advance purchase, and at a discount. Subscribers also enjoy first choice of seating, free ticket exchange, dining discounts, and other perks.

Though no points are involved, elements of the loyalty program philosophy still show up. "Our subscribers see themselves as belonging to a club," says Karastamatis. "And it gives them something to look forward to—seven special occasions when they'll be able to leave their routine behind."

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A perfect brunch

These recipes are ideal for when you entertain small and intimate groups

ROSE REISMAN

Serves 6
Prep time: 5 mins.
Cooking: 12 mins.

▶ Using homemade pesto means less fat and fewer calories.

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This Salmon with Pesto and Cream Cheese is an easy and delicious way to serve salmon.

I prefer to use homemade pesto, which has fewer calories and less fat than store-bought pesto.

This pesto recipe makes more than what you will use for the salmon; keep it refrigerated for later use.

To toast the pine nuts or almonds, place a dry skillet over high heat, add the nuts and stir often for about 3 minutes.

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 lb salmon fillet, cut into 6 fillets (about 4 oz. each)
- 1/4 cup low-fat cream cheese (about 2 oz), softened
- 2 tbsp pesto
- 2 tbsp toasted pine nuts (or chopped toasted almonds)

Pesto

- 1 cup fresh basil leaves
- 2 tbsp grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 tbsp toasted pine nuts
- 2 tbsp light cream cheese, softened
- 1 tsp finely chopped garlic
- 3 tbsp chicken stock (or vegetable stock or water)
- 2 tbsp olive oil

Preparation:

1. Preheat the oven to 425°F. Line a rimmed baking sheet with foil and lightly coat with cooking spray.
2. For the pesto, place all the ingredients in the bowl of a food processor and purée until smooth. Add more water if too thick.
3. Combine the cream cheese and pesto in a small bowl until smooth.
4. Make a small vertical slit on the top of each salmon fillet to within 1/4 inch of each end and about 1/2 inch deep. Stuff each fillet by dividing the pesto filling between the 6 fillets.
5. Arrange the spinach, cucumber and olives on a large serving platter. Top with roasted vegetables.
6. Place on the prepared baking sheet and bake for 10 minutes per inch of thickness. Garnish the plate with toasted nuts before serving to your brunch guests.

Warm Spinach Salad

This salad must be served warm so the cheese softens over the warmed mushrooms. Use any variety of mushroom. The key is to cook them on a medium-high heat until all moisture evaporates.

Preparation:

1. Lightly coat a nonstick skillet with cooking spray and sauté mushrooms over medium heat for about 8 minutes, or just until no longer wet and slightly browned. Keep warm.
2. Prepare dressing by whisking olive oil, balsamic vinegar, mayo, honey, garlic, mustard, salt and pepper.
3. Place spinach, sautéed mushrooms and Asiago in a serving bowl. Pour dressing over salad and toss. Serve immediately. **ROSE REISMAN**

Ingredients:

Salad

- 3 cups oyster mushrooms, sliced in half
- 8 cups baby spinach
- 1/2 cup shredded Asiago (or Parmesan) cheese

Dressing

- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 Tbsp balsamic vinegar
- 1 Tbsp light mayonnaise
- 2 tsp honey
- 1/2 tsp finely chopped garlic
- 1/2 tsp Dijon mustard
- pinch of salt and pepper

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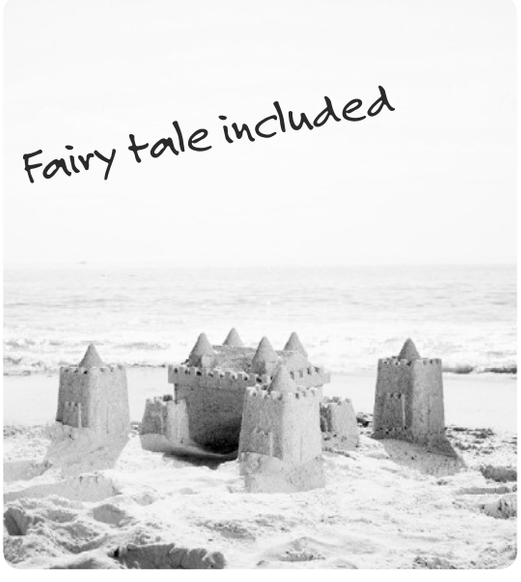

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VOTE FOR THOSE WITHOUT VOICES

CANADIANS WHO WANT STRICTER ANIMAL-CRUELTY LAWS MUST ELECT CANDIDATES WHO SUPPORT TOUGHER LEGISLATION

These news headlines are all too familiar and heartbreaking: In 2009 a man in Minto, N.B., was acquitted of animal-cruelty charges after killing five Pomeranian puppies with a hammer the previous year. The RCMP and SPCA are investigating a Whistler, B.C., tour company for slaughtering 100 healthy sled dogs last year, allegedly because business had slowed following the 2010 Olympic Games and new homes couldn't be found for the dogs.

Compassionate Canadians react in horror and outrage to those stories and others like them. It's not surprising that we care so much. A new study commissioned by the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) reveals that Canadians have strong views on animal welfare: 95% agree that animal pain and suffering should be reduced as much as possible.

With a federal election on the horizon, WSPA is asking all political parties to support stronger amendments to the animal-cruelty provisions under the Criminal Code. "Our goal is to get people talking about animal-welfare issues during the election," says Elizabeth Sharpe, WSPA's communications manager. "Canada's current animal-cruelty laws are 119 years old, and they're in desperate need of updating. Our federal laws are way behind other countries, and some individual provinces even have more up-to-date legislation."

WSPA is urging Canadians to express to their electoral candidates their opinions surrounding laws and legislation meant to protect companion animals such as dogs and cats, as well as farm animals. Almost 75% of Canadians recognize that animals are more than just property, which is where they currently fall under the Crimes Against Property section of Canada's Criminal Code.

"A huge percentage of Canadians [84%] would make it a more serious offense to brutally and viciously kill an animal," says Sharpe. Survey responses fluctuated somewhat depending on voting preference: Conservative, 75%; Liberal, 86%; NDP, 88%; Green, 87%; and Bloc Québécois, 88% (on this particular question).

"Leading up to the election, we've asked the leaders of Canada's major parties to answer a series of questions that will reveal their views on animal cruelty," says Sharpe. To view their responses, visit voteforanimals.ca.

Before casting their ballots on May 2, Canadian animal lovers can visit voteforanimals.ca to gain interesting insight into the mindset of our potential leaders. WSPA hopes that Canadians learn something about the leaders based on their answers.

WSPA is an international animal-welfare organization with headquarters in the United Kingdom, 15 offices worldwide and more than 1,000 partners in more than 150 countries. Since 1980 it has worked to protect, rescue and care for companion, farm and wildlife animals in Canada. For more information, visit www.wspa.ca or call 1-800-363-9772.

TAKE ACTION NOW VISIT VOTEFORANIMALS.CA

On May 2, Canadians will elect a new government. Now is the time to ask politicians what they plan to do to protect animals in Canada.

HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO ON VOTEFORANIMALS.CA:

GET INFORMED Learn party positions on matters such as strengthening Canada's outdated animal cruelty laws.

REACH OUT Send a letter to candidates in your riding asking about their plans to improve animal-protection laws.

SPEAK UP Send a letter to your local newspaper explaining why animals matter to you and why they should matter to the next government.

SPREAD THE WORD Follow WSPA on Twitter @voteforanimals for election news and updates. Join WSPA on Facebook and update your status to "Voting for Animals on May 2."

Green dreams do come true

The WWF is handing out up to $5000 in grant money to any school willing to prioritize the planet

ISTOCK

▶ Initiatives are popping up in every province. Apply for funding at wwf.ca/greencommunitygrants .

WWF is helping to grow young environmental leaders across Canada with its Green CommUnity School Grants Program, made possible by Loblaw Companies Limited. With six rounds of funding over three years, schools can apply each spring and winter season through 2012 for grants of up to $5,000 for anything and everything from a bicycle repair shop to a biodiversity garden. The program is open to any student or teacher with a green dream for their school or community.

Looking for some inspiration for what your school can do? Chances are you don't need to look any further than your own community. These grants have funded 59 projects to date in communities small and large, from P.E.I. to the Northwest Territories.

Hampton High in New Brunswick, for example, created a sustainable fishing and angling club. Teacher and project lead Hardy Cameron calls it an education in sustainability using fishing as the hook to engage students.

Projects are springing up in Canada's western provinces as well. Tom Baines School in Calgary, Alberta, has done some amazing work since deciding to perform a garbage audit a few months ago. The audit showed where the school could improve its current recycling program and the grant will help purchase super–sorter, multi–compartment bins that allow more effective separation of plastics, paper and bottles or cans.

Another great result of the Green CommUnity School Grants Program sprouts directly from its source. The program is supported by partial proceeds from Loblaw Companies' national charge–for–plastic shopping bag program, which both funds green initiatives and helps reduce the number of plastic shopping bags in landfills.

NEWS CANADA

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Tweeting with tact

WORKPLACE LAW

DANIEL LUBLIN
DAN@TORONTO-EMPLOYMENTLAWYER.COM
TWITTER: @DANLUBLIN

"Chrysler Group and its brands do not tolerate inappropriate language or behaviour, and apologize to anyone who may have been offended by this communication."

So read Chrysler's press release following the dismissal of an employee at its public relations firm who mistakenly tweeted on Chrysler's account that no one in Detroit knows how to drive.

In many respects, that example signals a growing trend: employees tweeting "casually" about their lives not realizing that what they say on Twitter has workplace-related consequences. Here are some common areas of concern.

* Spending an inordinate amount of time using Twitter at work for non-business-related purposes is tantamount to theft of an employer's time, which can be cause for dismissal.

* Comments posted on Twitter can link the author to her employer, even though no connection is intended. Contact information on Twitter accounts often includes a place of work, and therefore employees who tweet objectionable or defamatory material may be mistakenly perceived as having done so for their employer, which is exactly what happened in the Chrysler case above. Because of this, employers have a right to monitor their employees' tweets, even when they are made outside of business hours.

* Criminal laws can also be invoked if employees harass or intimidate co-workers through Twitter. These employees can end up surfing the classifieds for a criminal defence lawyer, as well as for a new job. Further, since courts have used blog or Facebook posts as grounds to uphold discipline, they will have little difficulty construing tweets in the same manner.

* Also, unlike general Internet use, which is private, Twitter posts do not simply disappear. Tweets containing offensive comments, pictures or links to stories become incontrovertible evidence of an employee's behaviour. Like an email, a tweet can be traced back to the originator, long after the fact.

DANIEL LUBLIN IS AN EMPLOYMENT LAWYER WITH WHITTEN & LUBLIN LLP. HIS FULL ARTICLE CAN BE READ ONLINE AT METRONEWS.CA

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Flyers roll to series victory

5	2
FLYERS	SABRES

Brian Boucher stopped 25 shots and the Philadelphia Flyers advanced to the Eastern Conference semifinals with a 5-2 win over the Buffalo Sabres in Game 7 of their first-round series last night.

The Flyers raced to a 4-0 lead and chased Buffalo goalie Ryan Miller in the third.

It was a switch from the rest of the series, where the Flyers had trouble in the net. They started three goalies in seven games. Boucher won Games 2 and 6 in relief, but was stout for all 60 minutes in the series clincher.

The defending conference champions must wait to learn their next opponent.

Braydon Coburn, Danny Briere, James van Riemsdyk, and Ville Leino all scored against Miller to suck the drama out of Game 7.

The Flyers surely won't complain about a rout after a tightly contested and topsy-turvy series, in which five of the first six games were decided by one goal.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Brian Gionta scores on Boston's Tim Thomas last night.

Canadiens take it to 7

◐ Bruins' penalties come back to bite them ◐ Price protects lead in third

2	1
CANADIENS	BRUINS

Brian Gionta and Michael Cammalleri scored during two separate two-man advantages and the Montreal Canadiens forced a decisive Game 7 in their first-round playoff series with a 2-1 victory over the Boston Bruins last night.

Dennis Seidenberg scored for Boston, which played more than half the game without ejected winger Milan Lucic, but still outshot the Canadiens 32-27.

Boston had taken the lead in the closely contested series with consecutive overtime wins, but couldn't get the equalizer behind a sharp Carey Price despite outshooting Montreal 11-6 in the third period.

It was a nervous game for both teams and referees Kevin Pollock and Chris Lee, with spotty passing and missed opportunities on both sides.

The crowd of 21,273 booed as a Montreal goal at 3:27 of the first period was disallowed due to a quick whistle. Scott Gomez's dump-in was misplayed by Thomas and lay clearly open beside Thomas as Gionta slipped it in the net.

Cammalleri was the catalyst for the opening goal as he threw the puck toward the Boston bench and caught them for too many men on the ice, then had his stick slashed in two by Seidenberg for a two-man advantage.

Cammalleri one-timed a P.K. Subban pass inside the near post from the right circle at 10:07.

The Bruins struck back with the teams each down one man only 48 seconds into the middle period as Seidenberg came out from behind the net and lifted it inside the post.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

4 sports

Sports in brief

1 The Orlando Magic stayed alive in the NBA playoffs with a 101-76 victory over the Atlanta Hawks.

2 Andre Ethier set a major league record by extending his hitting streak to 23 games, the longest ever in April.

3 Milos Raonic won his opening match at the Estoril Open yesterday, defeating Russian Igor Andreev.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAVID VAN DYKE/METRO

▶ Metro editor Fernando Carneiro receives sparring tips from Firas Zahabi.

DAVID VAN DYKE/METRO

DAVID VAN DYKE/METRO

▶ Firas Zahabi demonstrates an armbar yesterday.

St-Pierre's head trainer shows how it's done

Metro editor gets a hands-on demonstration

FERNANDO CARNEIRO
@METRONEWS.CA

Calm, gentle, soft-spoken and intense — my first impressions of Firas Zahabi, Georges (GSP) St-Pierre's head trainer.

The man behind one of mixed martial arts' greatest champions was in Toronto yesterday at a Gatorade-sponsored event to — gasp — work out the media! I wasn't going to pass on the opportunity.

He took journalists, one by one, to the mat at the Toronto Kickboxing and Muay Thai Academy, saying he would show us a move he has worked on with GSP. He was careful not to reveal if it's part of the plan for this Saturday's fight against Jake Shields.

The technique turned out to be a double-leg sweep from the bottom, followed by a quick return to standing position.

"Jake Shields has a very strong guillotine choke … and a devastating top game," Zahabi said. "We won't allow him to get too far."

He was gentle with the media folks, taking turns applying the technique and having journalists try it on him. Some were clearly never going to get it, but he corrected them anyways.

As a weekend warrior who has taken karate and Brazilian jiu-jitsu classes since childhood, there are few people I would rather have put me in an armbar. And Firas did it so smoothly and gently that I thought I could pull my arm out. I tried and failed — he had it locked, all right.

The coach was coy about GSP's attacking strategy for UFC 129, but said a game plan is in place to attack while standing up and on the ground.

He then had journalists step onto the ring and throw double jabs. I wondered if GSP is building on the single jabs that worked so well in his last fight, but Zahabi wouldn't say it. He just went on correcting the journalists' punches. Promotional appearance or not, he took it seriously.

So did I.

Nutrition tips

Firas Zahabi's pre- and post-workout nutrition tips:

- **Before:** Consume water or a sports drink about 15 minutes before hitting the gym. Sports drinks contain calories and electrolytes the body stores if consumed too early.
- **During:** Stay hydrated. Even a two per cent loss in hydration diminishes conditioning.
- **After:** Immediately upon finishing the workout is the best time to eat and drink to rebuild broken-down muscle fibre. The body can only absorb about 16 grams of protein at a time, so the 54-gram shakes out there just serve to overwork the body.

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EASTERN CONFERENCE

Washington (1) vs. N.Y. Rangers (8)
(Washington wins 4-1)
Philadelphia (2) vs. Buffalo (7)
(Philadelphia wins 4-3)
Last night's result
Philadelphia 5 Buffalo 2
Boston (3) vs. Montreal (6)
(Series tied 3-3)
Last night's result
Montreal 2 Boston 1
Tonight's game
Montreal at Boston, 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh (4) vs. Tampa Bay (5)
(Series tied 3-3)
Monday's result
Tampa Bay 4 Pittsburgh 2
Tonight's game
Tampa Bay at Pittsburgh, 8 p.m.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Vancouver (1) vs. Chicago (8)
(Series tied 3-3)
Last night's result
Chicago at Vancouver
San Jose (2) vs. Los Angeles (7)
(San Jose wins 4-2)
Monday's result
San Jose 4 Los Angeles 3 (OT)
Detroit (3) vs. Phoenix (6)
(Detroit wins 4-0)
Anaheim (4) vs. Nashville (5)
(Nashville wins 4-2)
x — if necessary.

FLYERS 5, SABRES 2

First Period
1. Philadelphia, Coburn 1 (Briere) 19:41
Penalties — Gragnani Buf, Briere Pha (roughing) 2:57, Briere Pha (boarding) 15:23.
Second Period
2. Philadelphia, Briere 6 (Richards, Giroux) 4:45 (pp)
3. Philadelphia, van Riemsdyk 4 (Giroux, Pronger) 10:19 (pp)
Penalties — Giroux Pha (interference) 1:04, Myers Buf (interference) 4:40, Butler Buf (hooking) 9:09, Carle Pha (holding) 18:48, Myers Buf (slashing), Coburn Pha (cross-checking) 19:02.
Third Period
4. Philadelphia, Leino 3 (Carle) 1:59
5. Buffalo, Myers 1 (Stafford, Hecht) 6:33
6. Philadelphia, Carcillo 2 (Versteeg, Timonen) 10:03
7. Buffalo, Boyes 1 (Roy, Myers) 15:21 (pp)
Penalties — Gerbe Buf (misconduct), Carcillo Pha (misconduct, game misconduct) 11:45, Timonen Pha (holding) 14:19, Ennis Buf (slashing) 19:01, Butler Buf (slashing) 19:41.
Shots

Buffalo	2	12	14	—28
Philadelphia	16	11	9	—36

Goal (shots-saves) — Buffalo: Miller (L,3-4-0)(28-24), Enroth (1:59 third)(8-7); Philadelphia: Boucher (W,4-1-0). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Buffalo: 1-4; Philadelphia: 2-4.
Referees — Dan O'Rourke, Stephen Walkom.
Linesmen — Brad Lazarowich, Brian Murphy.
Att. — 19,966 (19,537) at Philadelphia.

CANADIENS 2, BRUINS 1

First Period
1. Montreal, Cammalleri 3 (Subban, Plekanec) 10:07 (pp)
Penalties — Boston bench (too many men; served by Thornton) 8:54, Seidenberg Bos (slashing) 8:58, Kostitsyn Mtl (hooking) 19:39, Bergeron Bos (goaltender interference) 19:52.
Second Period
2. Boston, Seidenberg 1 (Kelly, Peverley) 0:48
3. Montreal, Gionta 3 (Gomez, Camalleri) 5:48 (pp)
Penalties — Lucic Bos (boarding major, game misconduct) 4:37, Hamrlik Mtl (interference) 10:16, Montreal bench (too many men; served by Darche) 13:49, Spacek Mtl (hooking) 16:26, Horton Bos (slashing) 16:48.
Third Period — No scoring.
Penalty — Kelly Bos (high-sticking) 16:50.
Shots

Boston	10	11	11	—32
Montreal	11	10	6	—27

Goal — Boston: Thomas (L,3-3-0); Montreal: Price (W,3-3-0). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Boston: 0-4; Montreal: 2-7.
Referees — Chris Lee, Kevin Pollock. **Linesmen** — Derek Amell, David Brisebois.
Att. — 21,273 (21,273) at Montreal.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PT
St. Louis, TB	4	4	8
Perry, Ana	2	6	8
Selanne, Ana	6	1	7
D.Sedin, Vcr	5	2	7
Clowe, SJ	4	3	7
Cammalleri, Mtl	2	5	7
Gagne, TB	2	5	7
Giroux, Pha	1	6	7
Gragnani, Buf	1	6	7
S.Koivu, Ana	1	6	7
Keith, Chi	4	2	6
Fisher, Nash	3	3	6
Ovechkin, Wash	3	3	6

Last night's games not included

TENNIS

ATP

SERBIA OPEN

At Belgrade, Serbia
Singles — First Round
Ricardo Mello, Brazil, def. John Isner (5), U.S., 6-4, 7-6 (4).
Illya Marchenko, Ukraine, def. Ernests Gulbis (6), Latvia, 6-2, 6-4.
Feliciano Lopez, Spain, def. Juan Monaco (8), Argentina, 6-4, 7-5.
Somdev Devvarman, India, def. Mikhail Kukushkin, Kazakhstan, 1-6, 6-4, 6-2.
Adrian Ungur, Romania, def. Ruben Ramirez Hidalgo, Spain, 6-7 (2), 6-3, 6-4.
Michael Berrer, Germany, def. Alexander Peya, Austria, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.
Fernando Gonzalez, Chile, def. Martin Klizan, Slovakia, 6-2, 6-4.
Marcel Granollers, Spain, def. Franco Skugor, Croatia, 7-5, 6-1.
Filippo Volandri, Italy, def. Dusan Lajovic, Serbia, 6-1, 6-4.

BMW OPEN

At Munich
Singles — First Round
Dustin Brown, Germany, def. Stanislas Wawrinka (2), Switzerland, 7-6 (6), 6-4, 7-5.
Marin Cilic (3), Croatia, def. Simone Bolelli, Italy, 7-5, 7-6 (4).
Florian Mayer (5), Germany, def. Steve Darcis, Belgium, 6-1, 6-2.
Nikolay Davydenko (7), Russia, def. Andrey Kuznetsov, Russia, 6-1, 7-6 (4).
Philipp Kohlschreiber (8), Germany, def. Robert Farah, Colombia, 6-3, 6-1.
Radek Stepanek, Czech Republic, def. Andrey Golubev, Kazakhstan, 6-1, 4-6, 6-3.
Teymuraz Gabashvili, Russia, def. Rainer Schuettler, Germany, 3-6, 6-4, 6-3.
Philipp Petzschner, Germany, def. Ivan Dodig, Croatia, 6-1, 6-4.
Julian Reister, Germany, def. Daniel Brands, Germany, 7-6 (1), 6-1.
Potito Starace, Italy, def. Jan Hajek, Czech Republic, 3-6, 6-4, 6-0.
Denis Gremelmayr, Germany, def. Robin Haase, Netherlands, 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.

TENNIS

ATP-WTA

ESTORIL OPEN

At Oeiras, Portugal
Men's Singles — First Round
Milos Raonic (5), Thornhill, Ont., def. Igor Andreev, Russia, 6-4, 6-4.
Thomaz Bellucci (6), Brazil, def. Frederik Nielsen, Denmark, 7-5, 6-1.
Juan Martin Del Potro (8), Argentina, def. Pedro Sousa, Portugal, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.
Frederico Gil, Portugal, def. Flavio Cipolla, Italy, 6-3, 6-2.
Pablo Cuevas, Uruguay, def. Pere Riba, Spain, 6-2, 6-4.
Edouard Roger-Vasselin, France, def. Marcos Daniel, Brazil, 6-3, 6-1.
Alejandro Falla, Colombia, def. Pablo Andujar, Spain, 4-6, 6-1, 4-4, retired.
Carlos Berlocq, Argentina, def. Daniel Gimeno-Traver, Spain, 6-4, 6-3.
Women's Singles — First Round
Jarmila Gajdosova (2), Australia, def. Renata Voracova, Czech Republic, 6-4, 6-0.
Klara Zakopalova (3), Czech Republic, def. Beatriz Garcia Vidagany, Spain, 6-4, 7-6 (3).
Urszula Radwanska, Poland, def. Anastasija Sevastova (4), Latvia, 5-7, 7-6 (5), 6-1.
Greta Arn (8), Hungary, def. Maria Joao Koehler, Portugal, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.
Kristina Barrois, Germany, def. Sofia Arvidsson, Sweden, 6-3, 6-1.
Sloane Stephens, U.S., def. Melanie Oudin, U.S., 6-2, 6-1.
Anabel Medina Garrigues, Spain, def. Simona Halep, Romania, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (5).
Anastasiya Yakimova, Belarus, def. Tamira Paszek, Austria, 5-7, 4-0, retired.

WTA

BARCELONA OPEN

At Barcelona, Spain
Singles — First Round
Alberta Brianti, Italy, def. Tsvetana Pironkova (3), Bulgaria, 6-1, 6-2.
Mirjana Lucic, Croatia, def. Ekaterina Makarova (4), Russia, 7-6 (4), 6-3.
Sara Errani (5), Italy, def. Maria-Teresa Torro-Flor, Spain, 6-1, 6-0.
Lucie Hradecka, Czech Republic, def. Iveta Benesova (7), Czech Republic, 6-4, 6-4.
Laura Pous-Tio, Spain, def. Barbora Zahlavova Strycova (9), Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-3.
Polona Hercog, Slovenia, def. Jamie Hampton, U.S., 6-4, 7-5.
Gisela Dulko, Argentina, def. Kimiko Date-Krumm, Japan, 7-5, 6-4.
Varvara Lepchenko, U.S., def. Elena Baltacha, Britain, 6-7 (3), 6-1, 6-2.
Virginie Razzano, France, def. Nuria Llagostera Vives, Spain, 7-5, 6-4.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	12	8	.600	—
Tampa Bay	11	11	.500	2
Toronto	10	12	.455	3
Boston	10	12	.455	3
Baltimore	9	12	.429	3½

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	14	8	.636	—
Kansas City	12	11	.522	2½
Detroit	12	11	.522	2½
Minnesota	9	12	.429	4½
Chicago	10	14	.417	5

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	14	8	.636	—
Los Angeles	13	10	.565	1½
Oakland	11	12	.478	3½
Seattle	9	15	.375	6

Last night's results
Chicago White Sox 3 N.Y. Yankees 2
Baltimore 4 Boston 1
Seattle 7 Detroit 3
Cleveland 9 Kansas City 4
Tampa Bay at Minnesota, ppd.
Toronto at Texas
Oakland at L.A. Angels
Monday's results
Toronto 6 Texas 4
Chicago White Sox 2 N.Y. Yankees 0
L.A. Angels 5 Oakland 0
Tonight's games
All times Eastern
Boston (Beckett 2-1) at Baltimore (Guthrie 1-3), 7:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (Buehrle 1-2) at N.Y. Yankees (Colon 1-1), 7:05 p.m.
Kansas City (Francis 0-2) at Cleveland (Tomlin 3-0), 7:05 p.m.
Oakland (T.Ross 1-2) at L.A. Angels (Haren 4-1), 7:05 p.m.
Seattle (Bedard 0-4) at Detroit (Verlander 2-2), 7:05 p.m.
Toronto (Jo-.Reyes 0-2) at Texas (Holland 3-1), 8:05 p.m.
Tampa Bay (W.Davis 2-2) at Minnesota (Liriano 1-3), 8:10 p.m.
Tomorrow's games
Seattle at Detroit, 1:05 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Minnesota, 1:10 p.m., 1st game
Toronto at Texas, 2:05 p.m.
Boston at Baltimore, 7:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox at N.Y. Yankees, 7:05 p.m.
Kansas City at Cleveland, 7:05 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Minnesota, 8:10 p.m., 2nd game

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Florida	15	7	.682	—
Philadelphia	15	7	.682	—
Atlanta	11	13	.458	5
Washington	10	12	.455	5
New York	10	13	.435	5½

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
St. Louis	12	10	.545	—
Cincinnati	12	11	.522	½
Milwaukee	11	11	.500	1
Chicago	10	12	.455	2
Pittsburgh	10	12	.455	2
Houston	8	14	.364	4

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Colorado	15	7	.682	—
Los Angeles	12	13	.480	4½
San Francisco	10	11	.476	4½
Arizona	9	12	.429	5½
San Diego	9	14	.391	6½

Last night's games not included
Florida 4 L.A. Dodgers 2
N.Y. Mets 6 Washington 4
San Francisco at Pittsburgh
Colorado at Chicago Cubs
St. Louis at Houston
Cincinnati at Milwaukee
Philadelphia at Arizona
Atlanta at San Diego
Monday's results
Florida 5 L.A. Dodgers 4
Pittsburgh 4 Washington 2
Colorado 5 Chicago Cubs 3
Cincinnati 9 Milwaukee 5
Arizona 4 Philadelphia 0
San Diego 5 Atlanta 3 (13 innings)
Today's games
All times Eastern
L.A. Dodgers (Billingsley 2-1) at Florida (Ani.Sanchez 1-1), 12:10 p.m.
Cincinnati (LeCure 0-1) at Milwaukee (Gallardo 2-1), 1:10 p.m.
Colorado (Chacin 3-1) at Chicago Cubs (C.Coleman 1-1), 2:20 p.m.
Atlanta (Hanson 2-3) at San Diego (Latos 0-3), 3:35 p.m.
Philadelphia (Hamels 2-1) at Arizona (J.Saunders 0-2), 3:40 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (Dickey 1-3) at Washington (Gorzelanny 0-2), 7:05 p.m.
San Francisco (Bumgarner 0-3) at Pittsburgh (Ja.McDonald 0-2), 7:05 p.m.
St. Louis (Lohse 3-1) at Houston (Happ 1-3), 8:05 p.m.
Tomorrow's games
San Francisco at Pittsburgh, 12:35 p.m.
N.Y. Mets at Washington, 7:05 p.m.
St. Louis at Houston, 8:05 p.m.
Chicago Cubs at Arizona, 9:40 p.m.

LACROSSE

PLAYOFFS

All times Eastern

DIVISIONAL SEMI-FINALS

EAST DIVISION
Saturday's game
Boston at Buffalo, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday's game
Rochester at Toronto, 3:30 p.m.
WEST DIVISION
Saturday's games
Colorado at Calgary, 8:30 p.m.
Washington at Minnesota, 8:30 p.m.

DIVISIONAL FINALS

May 6-8

SOCCER

Yesterday's results
Home teams listed first

ENGLAND

PREMIER LEAGUE

Stoke 3 Wolverhampton 0

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

SEMI-FINALS
(First Leg)
Schalke (Ger.) 0 Manchester United (Eng.) 2

NBA

PLAYOFFS

All times Eastern

FIRST ROUND

(Best-of-7 series)

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Chicago (1) vs. Indiana (8)
(Chicago leads 3-1)
Last night's result
Indiana at Chicago
Tomorrow's game
x-Chicago at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Saturday's game
x-Indiana at Chicago, TBD
Miami (2) vs. Philadelphia (7)
(Miami leads 3-1)
Tonight's game
Philadelphia at Miami, 7 or 8 p.m.
Friday's game
x-Miami at Philadelphia, 6 p.m.
Sunday's game
x-Philadelphia at Miami, TBD
Boston (3) vs. New York (6)
(Boston wins 4-0)
Orlando (4) vs. Atlanta (5)
(Atlanta leads 3-2)
Last night's result
Orlando 101 Atlanta 76
Tomorrow's game
Orlando at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday's game
x-Atlanta at Orlando, TBD

WESTERN CONFERENCE

San Antonio (1) vs. Memphis (8)
(Memphis leads 3-1)
Monday's result
Memphis 104 San Antonio 86
Tonight's game
Memphis at San Antonio, TBD
Friday's game
x-San Antonio at Memphis, 8 p.m.
Sunday's game
x-Memphis at San Antonio, TBD
L.A. Lakers (2) vs. New Orleans (7)
(Series tied 2-2)
Last night's result
New Orleans at L.A. Lakers
Tomorrow's game
L.A. Lakers at New Orleans, 9:30 p.m.
Saturday's game
x-New Orleans at L.A. Lakers, TBD
Dallas (3) vs. Portland (6)
(Dallas leads 3-2)
Monday's result
Dallas 93 Portland 82
Tomorrow's game
Dallas at Portland, 10 p.m.
Saturday's game
x-Portland at Dallas, TBD
Oklahoma City (4) vs. Denver (5)
(Oklahoma City leads 3-1)
Monday's result
Denver 104 Oklahoma City 101
Tonight's game
Denver at Oklahoma City, 8 or 9:30 p.m.
Friday's game
x-Oklahoma City at Denver, 10:30 p.m.
Sunday's game
x-Denver at Oklahoma City, TBD
x — if necessary.

2011 NBA WESTERN CONFERENCE PLAYOFFS
TONIGHT 8:30PM
MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES
GAME 5
AT
SERIES 3-1
SAN ANTONIO SPURS
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2011 KIZASHI SX iAWD

Kizashi fights Carformity. How? First, it offers true power of control with a superb chassis that delivers crisp and precise handling. Then, Kizashi comes fully loaded with what others call options. Fuel-efficient 180-hp 2.4L engine, Intelligent All Wheel Drive (iAWD), SmartPass™ Keyless Entry, and Rockford Fosgate Premium Audio System are just a few examples. This midsize sedan Fights Carformity on all levels.

$30,224 SELLING PRICE

OWN IT FOR **$199*** BI-WEEKLY | PURCHASE FINANCING **0.9%** FOR 72 MONTHS

Includes Delivery & Destination and Admin Fee

2011 SX4 HATCHBACK JX iAWD

The most fuel-efficient Compact Intelligent All-Wheel Drive vehicle in Canada. This is Fighting Carformity at its best. Its 150-hp 2.0L engine, 16" Aluminum Alloy Wheels, and European-tuned suspension will take you on any side street or highway life demands.

$21,664 SELLING PRICE

OWN IT FOR **$139*** BI-WEEKLY | PURCHASE FINANCING **0%** FOR 72 MONTHS

Includes Delivery & Destination and Admin Fee

2011 GRAND VITARA JX 4WD

Fight Carformity with a Compact SUV that has the off-road capabilities and practicality of an authentic SUV, along with on-road comfort and convenience. Grand Vitara's SmartPass™ Keyless Entry and Start system, Electronic Stability Program (ESP), Class-leading towing capacity[1], and fuel-efficient engine will make your journey more enjoyable. It's Suzuki's leading candidate to Fight Carformity off-road as well as on.

$27,314 SELLING PRICE

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CONSUMERS SHOULD READ THE FOLLOWING: All offers include Delivery & Destination ($1,495 for Kizashi/$1,395 for SX4/$1,595 for Grand Vitara models), $100 A/C Excise Tax (where applicable), $29 Tire Tax, $1 Environmental Handling Fee, $399 Dealer Administration Fee and $5 OMVIC Fee. Offers exclude PPSA up to $72 (when financing), applicable taxes (including HST and tax for fuel conservation, where applicable), license, registration and insurance. Vehicles may not be exactly as shown. These offers cannot be combined with any other offers and are subject to change without notice. Dealers may sell for less. See participating dealers for details. *Limited time finance offers available O.A.C. Special bi-weekly purchase finance offers are available on 2011 Kizashi SX iAWD Model 6B23V41 (Selling Price $30,224), 2011 SX4 Hatchback JX iAWD with manual transmission Model H3NB211 (Selling Price $21,664) and 2011 Grand Vitara JX 4WD automatic transmission Model L2TB511 (Selling Price $27,314) for a 72 month term. The bi-weekly 72 month payment interest rates are based on 2011 Kizashi SX iAWD @ 0.9%, 2011 SX4 Hatchback JX iAWD @ 0% and 2011 Grand Vitara JX 4WD @ 0% purchase financing. bi-weekly payments are $199/$139/$175 with $2,300/$2,000/$2,200 down payment. Cost of borrowing is $1,634/$0/$0. Offer valid until April 30, 2011. ¹When properly equipped.

Engine options

All three of the Durango's trim levels — SXT, Crew Plus and Citadel — arrive with a 290-horsepower 3.6-litre V6.

Available on all but the base model is a 360-horsepower 5.7-litre "Hemi" V8 that deactivates half of its cylinders under cruise, coast and deceleration conditions, helping it achieve fuel-economy ratings of 16.6 l/100 km in city driving and 10.1 on the highway.

More space

Modifications on the 2011 Durango include extending the distance between the front and rear wheels by nearly 13 centimetres and overall length by 25 centimetres to allow space for a third-row seat.

The new Durango is now closely similar to the previous version, but is much easier to enter and exit due to its considerably less truck-like ride height.

Towing

Towing capacities will give the Durango's competitors a run for their money, especially V8 models that can pull up to 3,265 kilograms worth of boat, horse or vacation trailer.

V6 units offer a 2,800-kilogram towing capacity, which is more than the old Durango's base 3.7-litre V6 or optional 4.7-litre V8.

All-wheel-drive is standard, but ϵ κact system depends on engine choice.

▶ Although it's on the same platform as the new Jeep Grand Cherokee, the Dodge Durango does a great job of being its own big wagon. How can you not love the styling?

Durango applies for reinstatement into SUV club

MALCOLM GUNN
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA
WHEELBASE MEDIA

Once left for dead, the Dodge Durango has made a surprising comeback for 2011, after a two-year absence.

Still, it faces an uncertain future as steadily rising fuel costs could derail its return before it really gets off the ground.

Chrysler has redesigned or reformulated most of its 2011 product lineup and nowhere is that more evident than in the Durango.

The model was considered dead and buried by late 2008, but clearly Dodge had other plans.

They included building the big sport ute on a modified Jeep Grand Cherokee platform that's also being employed in the next-generation Mercedes-Benz M-Class.

The redesign has resulted in the best-looking Durango since the brand's 1998-model-year arrival.

Certainly there will always be a need for the power and passenger capacity offered by the Dodge Durango.

However it remains to be seen if a two-year absence will affect its ability to make friends among the changing New World Order of sport ute fanatics.

Dodge Durango

What you should know about the 2011 Dodge Durango:

- **Types:** Four-door, all-wheel-drive, seven-passenger sport utility vehicle.
- **Engine (hp):** 3.6-litre DOHC V6 (290); 5.7-litre OHV V8 (360).
- **Transmission:** Five-speed automatic.
- **Stats:** L/100 km (city/hwy) 13.0/8.9 (3.6).

5 drive

By comparison

Chevrolet Traverse AWD
Base price: $40,300
Comparable to Durango in size and fuel economy, but lacks a V8 option.

Ford Explorer 4WD
Base price: $34,550
New-for-'11 model also loses its truck frame. A thrifty turbo I4 is optional.

Mazda CX-9 AWD
Base price: $40,100
Sharply styled model specializes in behaving like a sedan on the road.

WHEELBASE MEDIA

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A cautious approach

Honda's latest Civic is evolutionary, not revolutionary — but that's probably a good thing

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

PHOTOS BY JUSTIN PRITCHARD/FOR METRO

▶ The redesigned Honda Civic boasts up to a 12 per cent increase in fuel efficiency over the outgoing model.

Compared to its revamped rivals like the Hyundai Elantra, Mazda 3 or upcoming Ford Focus, changes to the new 2012 Honda Civic look less revolutionary and considerably more cautious.

No visible part of the new Civic is intensely different than the outgoing model, and changes are, perhaps decidedly, careful, sensible and nearly subtle.

Ultimately, Honda's intent was delivery of a package that will appeal to new shoppers while maintaining the character of the vehicle former owners were comfortable with. Designers have played it safe here, so to speak.

Engineers have worked a bit harder. For 2012, Civic updates consist largely of a slew of tweaks rather than a complete and total overhaul. Example?

The standard 1.8-litre engine is carried over — though improvements to various components have resulted in better performance and up to a 12 per cent increase in fuel efficiency.

Transmissions are tweaked carry-overs, too. Lightweight, cost-effective five-speed units in manual or automatic are still fitted to all standard models, and a colour-changing visual "ECO" indicator to help coach drivers to save more fuel.

Driving a mid-range Civic Coupe through the streets and highways of Washington, D.C., your writer noted the same comfortably taut suspension feel, below-average suspension noise and light, and lively feel that defined the last generation car.

The standard 140 horsepower engine is quiet until pushed, emits the trademark Honda engine growl when opened up, and delivers smooth performance throughout. Even redlined, Civic's engine makes numerous competitors feel downright brash.

Inside, revised body dimensions and smaller window pillars translate to more room and better visibility, respectively — and the 2012 Civic Coupe delivers front-seat roominess similar to the sedan.

Even your writer's wide and thick frame found no issues.

As usual, Honda's interior designers have ensured there's plenty of storage all around, too. No issue staying organized on the go here.

▶ The Civic Sedan (left), is pictured alongside the Civic Coupe.

Need more space? Civic Sedan will be the lineup's volume seller. A Hybrid Sedan variant, also improved with more power and better mileage, will hit the market later this summer.

Regardless of the model selected, Honda says the new Civic is no heavier than the outgoing 2011 unit, and that they've added hundreds, or even thousands of dollars worth of extra value to the lineup in terms of new features, revised equipment packaging and lowered pricing.

End of the day, the new Civic feels much like the model it's replacing — just slightly tidier, more comfortable and more refined. Owners of the last-generation Civic will feel right at home, if not slightly more comfortable and slightly less snug.

Shoppers after an exhaustive, complete overhaul aren't going to find it — but given Civic's many generations of proven performance and sales superstardom in Canada, that's probably not a bad thing.

Sporty Si

Fans of an out-of-the-box import-tuner pocket-rocket can opt for the sporty Civic Si with two or four doors and a new 2.4-litre engine that replaces the old two-litre "K20" unit from the old car.

- **Pros:** Lots more torque and a little more horsepower. That's 170 lb.-ft and 201 ponies, if you're counting.
- **Cons:** Redline falls by 1,000 RPM to 7,000 RPM.
- As it should, the Si still feels, looks and sounds notably more aggressive than the standard models — especially after the high-rpm VTEC cam changeover ramps up power output and sound effects. Drivers can now "watch" the process via a multistage "i-VTEC" indicator on the digital instrument cluster.

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Dodge.ca/Offers

CANADA'S NEWEST SHOWROOM

CHRYSLER Jeep DODGE RAM

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Wise customers read the fine print: ❖ • ' ‡ †† § The Holiday Weekend Sales Event offers are limited time offers which apply to retail deliveries of selected new and unused models purchased between April 21 and May 2, 2011 from participating retailers. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Offers subject to change and may be extended without notice. See participating retailers for complete details and conditions. ❖Save the Freight discount offer applies to eligible 2011 Grand Caravan SXT, Crew and all Town & Country models offered through Ontario retailers. Chrysler Canada will waive the $1,400 freight charge. While supplies last. See retailers for details. • $20,995 Purchase Price applies to 2011 Dodge Grand Caravan SE Canada Value Package (29E). $18,995 Purchase Price applies to 2010 Dodge Journey SE Canada Value Package (22F) only and includes $2,250 Consumer Cash Discount. See participating retailers for complete details. Pricing includes freight ($1,400), air tax, tire levy and OMVIC fee. Pricing excludes licence, insurance, registration, any retailer administration fees, other retailer charges and other applicable fees and taxes. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Retailers may sell for less. ' Consumer Cash discounts and Ally Credit Canada or retailer incentives are deducted before taxes. See your retailer for complete details. †† Financing for 48- and 60-month terms is O.A.C. through approved credit through TD Finance Services and select 2011 models are financed through Chrysler Financial. Offer applies to new 2011 Dodge and Ram models financed through TD Finance Services contracts. **(Different contract terms apply to Ally Credit Canada offers. See your retailer for complete details.)** Vehicles are financed over a 36-, 48- or 60-month term with payments amortized over a term of up to 96 months and the pre-determined residual balance payable at the end of the contract. At contract's end, customers have the choice of returning their vehicle through a Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge, Ram dealership with no further obligations (except payment of a $199 return fee and excess wear and tear, mileage and similar charges), financing the remaining balance for the rest of the amortization period at then-current standard rates or paying the residual balance in full. Some conditions apply. Customer Choice Financing offered by TD in Quebec is subject to different terms and conditions. All advertised Customer Choice Financing offers are TD offers. Examples: 2011 Dodge Grand Caravan SXT (29G)/2010 Dodge Journey SE Canada Value Package (22F) with a Purchase Price of $25,495/$18,995 financed at 4.99%/5.99% APR over 60/60 months with payment amortized over 87/73 months equal 130 bi-weekly payments of $161/$135 and one final payment of $8,978/$5,178 for a cost of borrowing of $4,420/$3,757 and a total obligation of $29,915.18/$22,752.17. Taxes, licence, insurance, registration, excess mileage and wear and tear charges, any retailer administration fees and other applicable fees and charges not included. Retailers may sell for less. See participating retailers for complete details. $2011 Dodge Grand Caravan Crew shown. Price including applicable Consumer Cash Discount Offer: $29,530. 2010 Dodge Journey R/T AWD shown. Price including applicable Consumer Cash Discount Offer: $24,245. ‡ Based on 2011 Dodge Grand Caravan and 2010 Dodge Journey models tested by NHTSA. Tested with optional side airbags. Side airbags may not be available in all models. Always wear your seat belt and properly secure children in appropriate child restraints. Based on U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration tests. NHTSA's star ratings may not reflect the safety of vehicles in all crash modes. ^Based on 2010 model year Dodge Journey, The Best Buy Seal is a registered trademark of Consumers Digest Communications LLC, used under license. *SIRIUS and the dog logo are registered trademarks of SIRIUS Satellite Radio Inc. ®Jeep is a registered trademark of Chrysler Group LLC. Customer Choice Financing is a trademark of Chrysler Group LLC.

NEW YORK SHOW ACKNOWLEDGES GAS PRICE ANGST

AUTO PILOT

MIKE GOETZ
DRIVE
@METRONEWS.CA

Lots of all-new and semi-new vehicles made their debuts at this week's New York Auto Show.

ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

▶ Behold the Scion FR-S Concept, which was on display at the New York Auto Show.

Many addressed the gas price thing head on. And if they didn't, they stood out like a sore thumb.

Lucky thing for those "sore thumb" types, however, that they look pretty darn cool, and in some cases, break-your-heart cool. So it's hard to stay mad at them.

502505

Witness the new 2012 Chrysler 300 SRT8 with a new HEMI V8 rated at 465 hp and 465 lb-ft of torque, and the new 2012 Jaguar XKR-S, with 550 hp and a top speed of 186 mph.

The Scion FR-S Concept is a little more socially responsible, with its flat-four engine, but it's still more geared toward outright joy than outright fuel economy.

But now on to some random thoughts on "The Other Guys," the NY debuts that have some new weaponry, to battle the high-gas-price forces.

Balancing power with fuel efficiency

Used to be, every time a car got redesigned, it ended up being bigger, heavier and more powerful — which always hurt the fuel efficiency cause. These days, automakers are holding back the power increases to make sure their vehicles hit certain fuel efficiency targets. In the U.S. the magic fuel efficiency number seems to be 40 mpg (about 5.9 L/100 km). At New York, we welcomed three more new models into the elite 40-mpg club — 2012 Honda Civic HF, 2012 Kia Rio Sedan and 2012 Mazda3.

The new 2012 Versa Sedan, also introduced at New York, is not far behind, at 37 mpg.

Auto-start is staring up

The new Rio employs an auto-start system, which shuts the engine down whenever it is at idle, and immediately starts the engine as soon the brake pedal is released. Another show debutant, the newly revised 2012 Chevrolet Malibu, also gets this feature.

▶ The 2012 Chrysler 300 SRT8 boasts a new HEMI V8 rated at 465 horsepower.

While it has been prevalent in Europe for a few years now, North America is just starting to get with the auto-start program. Expect lots of cars to get this gas-saving feature in the coming months, and years.

Big vehicle, small motor

Americans have spoken. They will mostly remain in the vehicle size they have now, even if gas prices are scary. Going down a vehicle size is not an option for them, because they have big highways, big stuff to haul around, and generally big bodies.

So they're looking for more efficient powertrain options in those generously sized vehicles.

Ford is right on this case, first introducing a 4-cylinder option in the Explorer, and now adding this same 2.0-litre turbo engine option to the newly-revised 2012 Taurus line (which had its coming out party at New York).

Small car chic

We're continuing to see more small cars that are more than just cheap transportation.

They're also cool to look at and cool to drive.

The new VW Beetle was simultaneously introduced at the New York and Shanghai auto shows, and eschews a bit of cuteness for more sporty pretensions. Okay by me.

The Fiat 500C, a convertible-like version of the 500, also broke cover at New York, and, just looking at it, makes me want to down a cappuccino.

FORD TAURUS

JAGUAR XKR-S

FIAT 500C

VW BEETLE

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HONDA DAILY NEWS

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2012 CIVIC SEDAN

NEXT GENERATION
2012 CIVIC COUPE

MODEL FB2F9CKNX

MODEL FG4A5CK
COMING SUMMER 2011

HOT OFF THE PRESS

Owning the next generation Civic is about driving a car that fits your life, no matter who you are. It's about having everything you want in a car without compromise. Highlights of the all-new 2012 Civic include improved fuel economy with Honda Eco-Assist™ Technology and enhanced convenience from a roomier interior. All this wrapped up with sleek exterior styling and defined clean-flowing lines for an aggressive stance and an energetic appearance.

NEXT GENERATION
2012 CIVIC LX

MODEL FB2E4CEX

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CIVIC 2012

◆ Based on Association of International Automobile Manufacturers of Canada (AIAMC) data reflecting sales between October 1997 and August 2010. *Limited time lease offers on a new 2012 Honda Civic Sedan LX with Manual Transmission (Model FB2E4CEX) available through Honda Financial Services Inc., on approved credit. Representative lease example: based on a 2012 Honda Civic Sedan LX with Manual Transmission (Model FB2E4CEX) on a 48 month term at 3.99% lease APR, the monthly payment is $250 (includes $1,395 freight and PDI), EHF fees ($29), EHF fees ($1), A/C tax ($100), and OMVIC fee ($5)) with $0 down payment or equivalent trade-in, $0 security deposit and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $12,000. 96,000-kilometre allowance; charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometres. License, insurance, registration, PPSA, and other taxes (including HST and tax for fuel conservation, if applicable) are extra. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price. Offers only valid for Ontario residents at Ontario Honda Dealers. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Vehicles are for illustration purposes only. Offers subject to change without notice. See your Ontario Honda Dealer or visit HondaOntario.com for full details.

Dependability has gone up: Report

J.D. Power and Associates finds that vehicle reliability is improving

DRIVING FORCE

JIL McINTOSH
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

People talk about the "good old days," but consumers today have fewer complaints about vehicle reliability than in the past, according to industry analysts J.D. Power and Associates.

Still, while complaints have dropped overall, newer technologies and features can be challenging for automakers.

In the company's latest U.S. report, which looked at problems with three-year-old (2008) vehicles, overall dependability was the best it had been since the study's inception in 1990.

However, the rate of improvement has slowed in recent years, largely attributable to increased numbers of complaints with new electronic and safety features.

"A lot of that isn't that (the features) are getting worse, but that more vehicles contain them," says Dave Sargent, vice-president of global vehicle research for J.D. Power and Associates.

Lincoln a winner

- In J.D. Power and Associates' most recent dependability study, which looks at 2008 model-year vehicles, Lincoln was the most reliable brand overall.
- Toyota had the most number of models take category awards, while the Porsche 911 had the fewest reported problems of any individual 2008 model.

"Typically, they are failing to work as the customer would expect them to, such as the navigation system freezing up or providing the wrong directions, or hands-free systems dropping calls or not connecting, or not recognizing commands.

For the most part, though, it's offset by the added benefit they get from these technologies."

Reliability is a long-term trend, Sargent says.

"We started the study in 1990 and virtually every year we see improvements in dependability. Manufacturers are getting better at designing and building high-quality cars. They learn from the past and avoid their mistakes."

Tire pressure monitoring systems, which send a warning if a tire gets too low, are high on the list of problematic technologies.

JIL McINTOSH/FOR METRO

▶ A tire-pressure monitoring system (TPMS) readout is shown. These systems have proven to be problematic at times.

They're required by law in the U.S., and while not in Canada, many cars sold here have them.

"This one sticks out the most," Sergent says.

"Lots of consumers are complaining about false readings. It was federally mandated (in the U.S.) for the 2008 model year and so every vehicle has to have one. Previously it was introduced by automakers as a luxury safety feature. Some of them are better than others."

Overall, Sergent says that when it comes to new electronic features, the vast majority of people find they work as designed, and consumers love the technology. The study only looked at reliability, though, and ease of use is an entirely different story.

"That's an enormous potential for disappointment for customers, and is a bigger issue than the technology failing to work," he says.

"Engineers love to design, and a lot of the designs are outstanding in concept, but when you take them to someone who has to live with them on a day-to-day basis, they're not as easy to use."

Top Gear

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF WHEELBASE

1 A trailer is only the first step to towing any vehicle to or from your garage. Equally important is securing the cargo so that it remains undamaged and safe during transport. Mac's Tie Downs will help ensure that your vehicle stays put. The company features a wide assortment and size range of adjustable ratchet-type and non-adjustable straps. macscustomtiedowns.com.

2 Taking into account the current cell phone laws, ever consider what to do if your vehicle was not equipped to sync up with a Bluetooth phone? The MotorMouth II from Scosche provides the solution as it simply plugs into your auxiliary input jack that's normally reserved for an MP3-format music player. From there, just sync your Bluetooth phone and you're on your way. scosche.com.

3 The days of carrying around traditional emergency flares might be nearing an end, especially when you take a look at the features of the GorillaTorch Flare from Joby, Inc. This little guy projects a bright white beam from its light emitting diode (LED) or a red light from its three red LEDs. The GorillaTorch Flare uses three AA batteries that provide about 20 hours of white light, 60 hours of red light or 80 hours of strobing light. joby.com.

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US models shown. Some options and accessories may vary or may not be available in Canada. *Limited time finance offer available through Volkswagen Finance, on approved credit, on select new vehicles. MSRP of $15,875/$20,475/$27,875 for a new and unregistered 2011 Jetta 2.0L / 2011 Golf 3-door 2.5L / 2011 Tiguan 2.0T base model with 5-speed / 5-speed / 6-speed manual transmission. Price excludes $1,365/$1,365/$1,580 freight and PDI, $29 EHF (tires), $100 air conditioning levy, if applicable, $5 OMVIC fee, $46 PPSA, and up to $499 dealer administrative fee. Financed at 0% APR for 36 months equals $478.89/$606.67/$818.20 per month. Monthly payment finance example includes freight and PDI (with base MSRP of $17,240/$21,840/$29,455) only. Government levies, OMVIC fee, dealer administration fee and PPSA fee may be financed (on approved credit) or may be paid at signing. Dealer may sell for less. Down payment or equivalent trade-in, due at signing, may be required. Cost of borrowing is $0 for a total obligation of $17,819/$22,519/$30,134. License, insurance, registration, options, TFFC, if applicable, and other applicable taxes are extra. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Offer excludes TDI Clean Diesel models. **Receive up to $500 towards Volkswagen Original Accessories, with the lease or purchase of any new 2011 Tiguan model. Certain conditions apply. No cash value. Excludes labour and tires. Offers end June 30, 2011 and are subject to change or cancellation without notice. †Up to $750 rebate for recent college or university graduates. Certain conditions apply. Visit vw.ca or your Volkswagen dealer for details. "Volkswagen", the Volkswagen logo, "TDI", "TDI Clean Diesel", "Jetta", "Golf" and "Tiguan" are registered trademarks of Volkswagen AG. "Volksfest" and "Das Auto & Design" are trademarks of Volkswagen AG. © 2011 Volkswagen Canada.

A used hatch from across the pond

Astra was short lived, but loved for fun factor and efficiency

SECOND GEAR

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ 2009 Saturn Astra XR 2-door

What's the 4-1-1

- **Model:** 2008 to 2009 Saturn Astra
- **Vehicle Type:** 3 or 5-door hatchback
- **Approximate used price range:** $9,000 to $14,000

With the intention of answering thousands of shoppers screaming for European product in Canadian showrooms, GM started re-badging the Opel Astra with a Saturn badge and shipping units over from across the pond for the 2008 model year.

The resulting Saturn Astra was a 3 or 5-door hatchback with four-cylinder power and front-wheel drive that largely hit the mark where ride quality, handling, interior execution and styling were concerned. Thing is, right as Astra was gearing up to be a hit, a recession, bankruptcy protection and a storm of economic nastiness befell the automaker, and the subsequent decision to give the Saturn brand its pink slip killed the Astra off after just two model years.

Looking for a 2008 or 2009 Astra? All models got a 1.8-litre, four-cylinder ECOTEC engine paired with a four-speed automatic or the recommended five-speed manual. The manual gearbox offers the most opportunity for drivers to maximize Astra's 138 horsepower.

Astra was sold in a basic "XE" trim level, and a more loaded "XR" model, too.

What Owners Like

Tight handling, fuel efficiency, styling, flexibility and ride comfort are typically highly rated by Astra owners. Those with a manual-equipped model tend to rate the shifter and clutch highly, too. In all, Astra is largely described as cheerful, upscale and fun to drive.

What Owners Hate

Complaints tend to centre around the lack of a standard centre armrest, as well as poor rearward visibility, small steering-wheel audio controls and an initially-confusing stereo system.

Common Issues

Online, owner-stated reliability is somewhat limited thanks to the Astra's short lifespan — though a used model has a few things going for it right off the bat.

In addition to what looks to be a very pleasing driving experience, GM's 160,000 kilometre powertrain warranty should provide shoppers with plenty of confidence. With five years of coverage, many used Astra models will have a great deal of warranty coverage remaining.

Be sure to double and triple-check the air conditioner for proper operation, as several owners have reported problems with the system "pulsing" or working intermittently.

Note that a check engine light and reduced engine power could be the result of a bad engine sensor, and that a "scan" of the engine computer for stored codes could reveal potential problems on this front too.

The Verdict

A used Astra, especially with a large remaining portion of GM's warranty, should prove a confident, enjoyable used hatch.

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Dealer may sell for less. Only one (1) Offer may be applied toward the purchase or lease of each Eligible Vehicle. This Offer can be used in conjunction with most retail consumer offers made available by Ford of Canada at the time of factory order or delivery, but not both. This Offer is not combinable with CPA, GPC, Daily Rental Allowances or the Commercial Fleet Incentive Program (CFIP). Limited time offer. Offer may be cancelled at any time without notice. Some conditions apply. Offer available to residents of Canada only. See Dealer for details. ††Lease a new 2011 Ford Fiesta SE 5 Door Manual / Fiesta SE 5 Door Manual with Sport Appearance Package and Sync and Sound Package and get 3.99% APR for 48 months on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest APR payment. 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Offers include freight, air tax, PPSA, Stewardship Ontario Environmental Fee and $500 Ford Custom Car Event Incentive but exclude administration and registration fees of up to $799, fuel fill charge of up to $120 and all applicable taxes. Taxes are payable on the full amount of the purchase price. ±Based on highway driving only in 2011 Fiesta 1.6L Duratec I-4 Automatic with SFE Package (668 city km). Actual fuel consumption may vary based on road conditions, vehicle loading and driving habits. ^Class is Subcompact Cars. Comparison data based on Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN) Subcompact Cars and RL. Polk B-Car (excluding Diesel) classifieds. ‡‡ Estimated fuel consumption ratings for the 2011 Fiesta 1.6L Duratec I-4 Automatic with SFE Package based on Transport Canada approved test methods. Actual fuel consumption may vary based on road conditions, vehicle loading and driving habits. Vehicle shown is Fiesta SE 5 Door Manual with Sport Appearance Package and Sync and Sound 1.6L-I4 5 speed manual with 7.1L/100 km city and 4.0 L/100 km hwy and 53 MPG hwy. ^Some mobile phones and some digital media players may not be fully compatible - check www.syncmyride.com for a listing of mobile phones, media players, and features supported. Driving while distracted can result in loss of vehicle control, accident and injury. Ford recommends that drivers use caution when using mobile phones, even with voice commands. Only use mobile phones and other devices, even with voice commands, not essential to driving when it is safe to do so. Sync is optional on most new Ford vehicles and standard on selected Lincoln vehicles.

A decade without Dale

Even 10 years later, signs of Dale Earnhardt are everywhere, especially for his son

STEVEN REIVE
WHEELBASE MEDIA
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

Ten years. A decade. Make that 3,650 days.

Can it be that long? Say it isn't so.

Say that it wasn't just yesterday when the man was rounding the turn, heading for the checkered flag, the February Florida sun gleaming off that midnight-black car as it screamed into the second to last turn at the 2001 Daytona 500.

Tell us that it can't be 10 years since the car careened into a concrete wall, ending it all. We all recall the image of a crumpled No. 3 sliding directionless toward the green Daytona grass. A legend gone. A legacy stopped cold.

Ten years later, there is an eeriness that still permeates NASCAR.

The son that never came home one night. The father that is no longer there.

Ten years later, Dale Earnhardt is still gone. And the racing world is still trying to move on, while at least one son still tries to cope.

"After that happened I never wanted to see another race track or another race car again," Dale Earnhardt Jr. said recently about his feelings the days after his father's death.

"We went to Rockingham (the next race in North Carolina), I felt responsible to go, but I didn't want to be there. But after a week I got to thinking, 'What am I going to do? My dad gave me this opportunity."

For three decades, Dale Earnhardt — the Intimidator — was everywhere.

With a twinkle in his eye and a devilish grin, he had

GETTY IMAGES/NASCAR

▶ Dale Earnhardt Jr.

shoved and pushed his way to the front, willing his cars to victory and driving with a disdain for safety. He wore an old-style helmet, didn't care for the HANS (Head and Shoulder Neck Restraint) device and had never been to a funeral.

"I'll be in one of them soon enough," he told a reporter years ago.

"Dale would go up in the gray areas," said "Humpy" Wheeler, the owner of Charlotte Motor Speedway in North Carolina. "Up where the angels feared to tread."

There was a great deal of reverence regarding Dale Earnhardt in the weeks leading up to the Daytona 500 back in February.

Earnhardt Jr. said he has no problems with that, but would prefer to stay on the sidelines.

"Everyone wants to reflect and honour my father at this time," he said. "What I enjoy is hearing other people talk about him, not me."

"I'll be happy to observe everything that goes on. If it's something big, if it's something small, whatever it is. But if you don't mind I'd just rather watch it; stand on the sidelines ... I know how I feel in my heart and I don't feel the need to discuss it a lot."

GETTY IMAGES/NASCAR

▶ Dale Earnhardt had little trouble winning races at Daytona International Speedway, just the Daytona 500. The monkey was finally off his back in 1998, however it was the only race he won that year.

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NEWS CANADA

▶ You should always consider your insurance costs before signing the papers and driving off the lot.

Considering car insurance rates

Dreaming of a new car while looking out at your driveway each day?

A new car, whether it's new off the showroom floor or just new to you, is one of the largest purchases you will make, but remember to consider your insurance costs before you sign the papers and drive off the lot.

Insurance rates are partly determined by the type of car you own.

"When you have a few cars in mind, you should call your insurance agent to see how much insurance would cost for each model you're considering," said Eric Michalko of Allstate Insurance Company of Canada.

If a car is difficult to steal or has lower repair costs than other models, this can help to lower your annual insurance rates.

"Despite what you've heard, red cars are not more expensive to insure than other colours."
ERIC MICHALKO OF ALLSTATE INSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA

Other factors that help determine car insurance rates:

- Cars with higher safety ratings will save you money because they keep occupants safer if you are in an accident.
- Older cars cost less to insure because the cost to replace or repair them is lower.
- If you have a higher deductible on your policy (e.g. your share of the cost of a claim), then you will lower your monthly insurance rate, though you will have to pay more out of pocket if you are in an accident.
- A consistent accident-free and conviction-free driving record will help to keep your rates lower.
- Tell your insurance agent if you are only using the car on weekends and not for driving to work. This can help to reduce rates.

Most insurance companies, like Allstate Canada, will reduce your insurance rates if you have both auto and home insurance policies with the same insurance provider or have multiple vehicles on your policy.

NEWS CANADA

VEHICLE MODIFICATIONS

Think twice before you go and pimp that ride

Every day we see them on our streets — customized vehicles with non-stock spoilers, enhanced engines, raised suspensions and the like.

Needless to say, the post-manufacturer auto modification business is booming.

But while adding performance parts and "styling" features to your vehicle can give it a distinct appearance and improve performance, it may also impact your auto insurance. So before you add a turbo-charged engine or even tint your windows, it is a good idea to contact your insurance broker or insurer to make certain you have the right coverage.

Insurance expert Mauro Convertini from Aviva Canada, points out how vehicle modifications can increase risk and premiums as a result. He explains, "Certain modifications can put motorists at a greater risk of having a collision, such as a lowered or raised suspension, or increasing the size of your engine. Your vehicle could become untrustworthy on the road and impact your safety as well as your access to coverage."

Even modifications you would expect to better the insurance risk of your vehicle, like an improved brake system, may still increase the cost of insurance.

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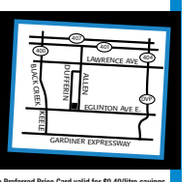

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Vehicle collision protocol 101

So you can drive a car. That's great, but do you know what to do if you're involved in an accident?

Whether you're driving to work, running errands or heading up to the cottage, chances are that you will unfortunately be in at least one minor collision at some point in your life.

Avoid becoming a nervous wreck by knowing what to do when a collision occurs.

After you've been in an accident, experts agree that you should remember to:

Move your vehicle off the road

If the collision is minor, move your car into the nearest parking lot or driveway.

Call 911

Have your driver's license and proof of insurance ready when you make the call.

Once the authorities have been notified, write down the other driver's name, insurance details and policy number, as well as all information related to their car.

Do not discuss accident details

Avoid conversations or disputes surrounding the accident by not recounting the details with the other drivers and passengers, and never admit fault.

Keep your claim number

The officer onsite will assess the accident and determine who is at fault.

They will then write a report and give you what is called an accident claim number. It is very important to keep this information handy and in a safe place for future reference.

Call your insurance company

If the accident is your fault, call your insurance company as soon as possible. If it's not, use the other driver's policy information to avoid paying a deductible.

Report to a collision centre

By law, drivers involved in a collision must report into a Collision Reporting Centre (CRC) within 24 hours.

"Even the most minor collision can be quite stressful but the process involved in getting back on the road is quite simple," says Mauro Convertini, insurance and claims expert for Aviva Canada.

"Once you've visited your local CRC, your insurance company will actually handle the damage appraisal, give you a repair estimate and arrange for a rental car."

Check with your insurance broker for more information.

ISTOCK

▶ It's important to know what to do when a collision occurs, so you can avoid becoming a nervous wreck.

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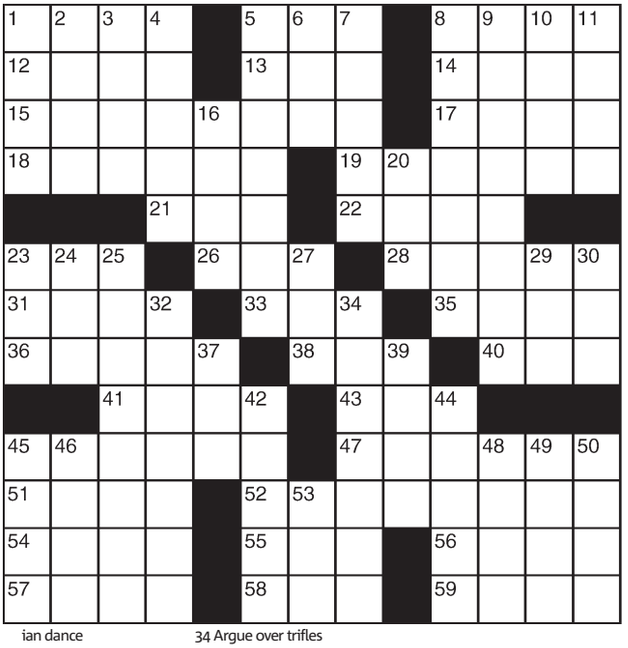
Crossword



Across

1 Disarray
5 Drunkard
8 MacDonald's place
12 Year-end celebration
13 Lawyers' org.
14 Dunkable treat
15 Hiker's energy source
17 Bellow
18 Mingle (with)
19 Sequentially
21 Pitching stat
22 Replaces divots
23 Fool
26 Wet wriggler
28 Handle skillfully
31 Comestibles
33 Lair
35 Inside picture?
36 Potato, for one
38 Have a bug
40 That woman
41 Harvest
43 Mai — (cocktail)
45 Asian capital
47 Buccaneer
51 Brewery products
52 Temporary solution
54 French meat entree
55 Trojans' sch.
56 Sea eagle
57 Charon's river
58 "A mouse!"
59 Iditarod team

Down

1 Legend
2 Modern money
3 Thick chunk
4 River through Paris
5 Did a springy Brazilian dance
6 Japanese sash
7 Urban fleet
8 New Jersey base
9 Wake-up calls
10 Ca-boose's place
11 Early hours
16 Traditional tales
20 Promptly
23 Astern
24 Not worth a —
25 AA goal
27 Meadow
29 — -di-dah
30 Coloring agent
32 Discard
34 Argue over trifles
37 "Norma —"
39 Secular
42 Irritate
44 Annoyed
45 Sailors
46 Greatly
48 Roundish do
49 Chime sound
50 Former partners
53 Work with

▶ Yesterday's answer

M	I	L	D	■	C	A	N	■	D	A	D	O
O	R	E	O	■	O	H	O	■	I	R	O	N
D	I	S	C	O	V	E	R	■	S	I	L	L
E	S	S	■	G	E	M	■	S	C	A	L	Y
■	■	■	D	R	Y	■	M	A	R	■	■	■
E	Y	D	I	E	■	J	A	N	E	D	O	E
B	O	O	S	■	Z	A	P	■	D	A	W	N
B	U	T	C	H	E	R	■	T	I	M	E	S
■	■	■	U	R	N	■	M	A	T	■	■	■
B	R	A	S	S	■	N	I	L	■	P	E	N
E	O	N	S	■	D	I	S	C	L	O	S	E
T	O	T	E	■	O	C	T	■	O	O	P	S
S	K	I	D	■	S	K	Y	■	W	H	Y	S

Sudoku

					6		1	
6	5				8	4		
	9		5			6		
	7			4	1		2	
1								7
	3		6	9			4	
		2			4		6	
		3	8				5	9
	1		7					

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

7	1	9	8	2	5	6	4	3
5	3	4	7	6	1	8	2	9
6	8	2	3	4	9	1	7	5
4	9	6	5	8	2	7	3	1
1	2	7	9	3	4	5	8	6
3	5	8	6	1	7	4	9	2
2	4	5	1	9	8	3	6	7
8	6	1	2	7	3	9	5	4
9	7	3	4	5	6	2	1	8

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, online at metronews.ca/kiss.

My Rockstar Lover,
I can't belive we've made it this far. I'm so happy I've spent the last 2 years of my life with you, i wouldn't have asked for it any other way! My unconditional love for you deepens more each day. You are my world and i am yours forever and eternally!!! Paddle Paddle xo
From **YOUR ROSALEE**

Darling, Thinking about you today is making me smile. I treasure our past and can't wait for our future together. I love you, don't ever forget that.Yay fun extravaganzas!
From **LEPRESEAN**

Huishan, Our relationship blossomed from the moment I laid my eyes on you and spoke to you in another language. You & I are going strong for 8 years and counting; I am so grateful for every day that you are in my life. I love you. **GELINO**

Today
18°/8°
Thunderstorms
80%
Thursday
14°/6°
Showers
80%
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Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 You need to be a lot more flexible, especially in your career.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 The emotional bruises you get today will be balanced by the knowledge that they're helping you in some way.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 You will have a profound effect on those around you today.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 You will tempted to have words with those who only seem to complain. Why don't you?

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 Put your mind to it and you'll find ways to make sense of something that didn't make sense before.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 It's okay to be outspoken but don't expect others to just sit there and take it.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 Make an effort to get along with others. You'll accomplish a lot.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 Stop trying to make it appear as if you're in control of every and every situation.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 There seems to be tension in the air. You need to defuse the situation. Start by not judging.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Maybe it's time to start looking around for new opportunities. Your talent is in demand.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Today, you'll have the energy to get things done quickly.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. Be honest with loved ones today, even at the risk of upsetting them. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption contest

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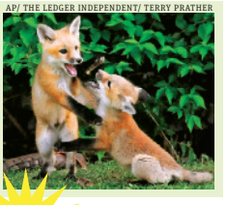
AP/ THE LEDGER INDEPENDENT/ TERRY PRATHER



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Sorento EX-V6 Luxury shown

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See dealer for full details. *"Don't Pay for 90 Days" on select models (90-day payment deferral) applies to purchase financing offers on 2011 Forte, 2011 Forte Koup, 2011 Forte5, 2011 Rio, 2011 Rio5, 2011 Rondo and 2011 Soul models on approved credit (OAC). No interest will accrue during the first 60 days of the finance contract. After this period interest starts to accrue and the purchaser will repay the principal interest monthly over the term of the contract. ◂Lease offer available on 2011 Sportage (SP55AB) is $279 (includes delivery and destination fees of $1,650, $500 lease credit, $34 OMVIC fee, EHF (tires) and $100 air conditioning tax, where applicable) for 48 months at 2.9% lease APR with a $3,300 down payment. Total lease obligation is $16,712 with the option to purchase at the end of the term for $8,196. Lease has 20,000 km/year allowance (other packages available and $0.10/km for excess kilometres). Other taxes, registration, insurance, licensing and dealer administration fees ($699) are excluded. ‡Cash purchase price for 2011 Sorento (SR54DB) is $21,679 and includes a cash credit of $4,100, delivery and destination fees of $1,650, OMVIC fee, Environmental Fee and Air Tax (where applicable) based on an MSRP of $25,779. Cash purchase price excludes licensing, registration, insurance, PPSA and applicable taxes. ◂Loan credit (cash savings) for 2011 Rondo (RN75B) is $1,000 and is available on purchase financing only on approved credit (OAC). Loan credit varies by model and trim. All offers exclude licensing, registration, insurance, PPSA, applicable taxes and variable dealer administration fees (up to $699). Vehicles advertised may include optional accessories or after-sale equipment and may not be exactly as shown. ^Highway/city fuel consumption for 2011 Rondo (RN75B) is 7.5L (38 MPG)/10.6L (27 MPG); Sportage (SP55AB) is 6.9L (41 MPG)/10.0L (28 MPG); 2011 Sorento (SR54DB) is 7.4L (38 MPG)/10.6L (27 MPG). The actual fuel consumption of these vehicles may vary. These estimates are based on the Government of Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. Refer to the Government of Canada publication *EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide*. △2011 Kia Sportage/2011 Kia Sorento awarded the Top Safety Pick by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. The award is applicable to all 2011 Sorento/2011 Sportage models manufactured after March 2010. Visit www.iihs.org for full details. ◇2011 Kia Sportage awarded Car of the Year by Motoring 2011 for Best SUV/CUV (under $40,000) and overall Car of the Year. Visit www.motoringhv.com for full details. ¶The Bluetooth® word mark and logo are registered trademarks and are owned by Bluetooth SIG, Inc. Some conditions apply to the $500 Grad Rebate Program and $750 Kia Mobility Program. See dealer for details. Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of print. For more information on our 5-year warranty coverage, visit kia.ca or call us at 1-877-542-2886. Offers end May 2, 2011. KIA is a trademark of Kia Motors Corporation. ♣"No Charge Scheduled Maintenance" is applicable to all new 2010 and 2011 Kia Rondo and Sedona models retailed and delivered before May 2, 2011. This offer is non-transferrable and cannot be used as a cash equivalent. Maintenance covered includes 1-year, 24,000 km basic scheduled maintenance (basic service 1 at 8,000 km, basic service 2 at 16,000 km, basic service 1 at 24,000 km). Maintenance must be completed at an authorized Kia dealer using genuine Kia parts. See dealer for details. ¥Loyalty Bonus offer available on 2011 Kia Sedona/Rondo models at a value of $1,000/$500 for any current Kia owners towards the purchase or lease of a new 2011MY Sedona/Rondo. Offer applicable on cash purchase, lease and purchase financing only before May 2, 2011. Offer is transferrable within same household only (must provide proof of address). Limit of one bonus per customer or household. Certain restrictions apply. See dealer for details. ©2011 Kia Canada Inc. Reproduction of the contents of this material without the expressed written approval of Kia Canada Inc. is prohibited. All information is believed to be accurate, based on information available at the time of printing. Information sourced from independent third-party research.

$500 Grad Rebate

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